

THE FORREST OF Fancy.

WHEREIN IS CONTEINED YE-
ry pretty Apothegmes, and pleasaunt histo-
ries, both in meeter and prose, Songes, Sonets,
Epigrams and Epistles, of di-
uerse matter and in di-
uerse man-
ner.

With sundry other deu-
ises, no lesse pithye then pleasaunt and
profytable.

Reade with regard, peruse each point well, (thee
and then giue thy iudgement as reason shall moue
For eare thou conceiue it, were hard for to tell,
If cause be or no wherefore to reprove me.

Imprinted at London by
Thomas Purfoote, dwelling in Newgate
Market, within the new Rents,
at the Signe of the
Lucrece.

1579.

THE FOREST OF FAROE.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED
A Description of the
Antiquities and
Monuments of the
Island.

By
V. Smith, Esq.
of the Middle Temple,
Esq.



Printed at the
Printers of the
British Museum,
at the Sign of the
Anchor.

The Booke speaketh to the Buyers.

To those that be welthy, and passe by this place.
My talke only tendeth, so conster the case.



What kind of thing I am,
my shape doth shew the same,
No Forrest, though my fashion please,
to tearme me by that name,
But Fancy fits me well,
For I am fully fraught.

With Fancies such as may correct

but not corrupt the thought.

In me my friend thou mayst,

(though thou be young or old)

Ritche poore, of high or low degree,

thy duety here beholde.

For Tonkers I haue founde

and foolish trifles store:

For auncient syres such seemely sightes

as shall content them more.

If thou a Louer bee,

come learne thy lesson here:

Where wilful workes of wiles wighies

shall perfect dayne appeare.

What treason is in trust,

how sickle friends are found:

How wretched to the state of man,

what mischief doth abound.

What follies fond we frame,

our foolish fancy to:

Here mayst thou see, and so discerne

what best becomes to do.

Sith then such profile may

by meanes of me redounde:

To thee my friend, before thou passe,
this present plot of grounde.

Put hand in purse for pence,
to purchase me withall :

What foole & Forrest would forsake,
that sees the price so small.

A Shilling is the moste,

a very slender share

No hurt to him that hath enough,

so small a peece to spare.

Finis. qd. Fancy.

The Authour to the Reader.

THe Husbandman when meetest time shall serue,
doth plow his ground, and sow good feedes therein,
Then seekes he how he should the same preferue,
From carryon crowes, that gape the graine to win,
Vntill that it to ripen doe begin.
And being ripe, he makes no more delay,
But reapes it vp, so soone as well he may.

His corne thus cropt, and scattered on the ground,
Straight into sheafes he doth the same deuide,
And to his Barnes he beares it ready bound,
Whereas a while he suffers it to bide,
Till at the last he thrashers doth provide,
Who from the corne the straw and stubble take,
And on a heape the graine together rake.

Which as it is, they put into a Fan,
And so deuise to driue the chaffe from it,
My selfe I count to be the Husbandman,
For in this booke, as in a ground most fit,
To sow the feedes of my vnwildy wit,

I scate

I scattered haue my fancies in such wise,
And sent them so, as I can best deuise.

All being done that doth thereto pertaine,
Good Reader I present to thee the same,
Desiring thee that thou wilt take the payne,
All things amisse to put in perfect frame:
And beare with me although I merite blame.
Considering that / sought of meere good will,
in all I might thy fancy to fulfill.

In Forrest wise here fancies I present
To thee, with hart that feruently doth craue,
Each curteous wight to way my good intent,
And note the cause why I presumed haue,
To thrust my selfe amidst the surging waue.
Not glory vaine, or hope to purchase praise,
But sloth to shon, my mind thereto did raise.



R. W. to the Reader, in the Au-
thours behalfe.



What led *Leander* to presume,
so oft to swim through surging seas:
But hope to fynd his *Hero* there,
where he ariu'de his hart to ease,
What moude the *Troyan* to attempt,
to go to Greece, but hope to haue
The princely pearle, the promised pray,
which most of all his hart did craue
And what procured *Esons* sonne,
to put his life in perrill so,
To fetch the *Fleece* from *Colcos* Coast,
where to augment his greefe and wo,
So many perrils were preparede;
but that he hopre thereby to gaine,
Such glory great as after death,
should make his fame for aye remayne.
If all these hopte, and had in fine,
the thing that they did hold most deare:
Let him that hath this prety booke,
for thy delight compyled heare,
Good Reader, reape his iust reward,
to recompence his meere good will,
Receiue his gift in gratefull wise,
and of the same conceiue none ill.
For euill none he ment thereby,
(what euer enuious mates surmise:)
Right sure I am: conceiue therefore,
of him and his none otherwise.
So shalt thou make him think his paynes,
imployed well in each respect.
and happy count his hap that some,
will with good will his work protect.
Finis.

The Epistle to the Reader.



O variable are the minds of men (gentle Reader) and so diuerse their opinions, that amongst twenty, it is hard to fynd twaine that agree all in one thing. For commonly that which one man lyketh, another loatheth, that which one man praiseth, another reproueth, that which one desy-
reth, another disdayneth, and whatsoeuer pleaseth one, doth as much displease another. The yong man taketh pleasure in all youthfull excersises, as Dances, Synging, playing on instruments, dallying with daynty dames, and such like, whereby his pleasure may be procured, and increased, without respecting any pertill that maye insue thereof. The aunciente Syre, whome experience hath taught to be more wise and wary of such vaine vanities, hath an eye to his profit, and reiecteth pleasure as a thing vnprofytable. The couragious Captayne accompteth it for his greatest glory to be in the field, marching among his men of warre, or skirmishing with his enemies, to trie his strength and courage, with the hazarde of his life, for the furtheraunce of his fame, and increase of his commodity. The man likewise that is inclyned to learning, is alwayes best at ease when he is setled in his study, there to tolle and turne his booke, perusing the workes of auncient wrighters, whereby he may in tyme be able both to profite his countrey, and purchase such prayse to himself as is due to his good desyres. But as these great clarkes doe not all delight to study one onely science, but some apply themselues to deuinity, some to Philosophie, some to phisicke, some to Astronomy, and some to euery one of them alike, not making any speciall choysse of eyther of

them

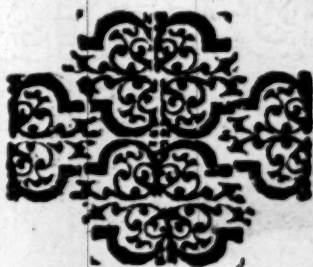
To the Reader.

them. So likewise the common sorte whose learning nor capacity cannot attaine to the full perfection or perfect understanding of such deepe mysteries, haue their seuerall delightes, as well in reading such workes, as are in their vulgar tongue, as in any thing else. For one will peruse pleasant Histories, and other poeticall deuises, this man merry tales, and other like toyes: that man deuine and morrall matter, euery one seuerally, according to his seuerall affection, and naturall inclination, and there is no man be he neuer so well stayed, that will adiect himselfe to one thing onely, and refuse all other. For as the stomacke is quickly cloyed with feeding continuallye vppon one kinde of meate, so is the mind greatly greened, to bee alwayes musing vppon one matter, and therefore desyreth change.

Which considered, after I had gathered together in one small volume diuerse deuises, as well in prose as meeter, of fundry sortes, and seuerall matter, which at idle times (as wel to sharpen my wits, and shake of sloth, as to satisfie my friends, that had occasion to craue my helpe in that behalfe) I haue heretofore as occasion serued, diuersly framed, supposing the same to be fiste for this present time, and agreeable with the mindes of most men, I haue (as well for the disordered placing of euery perticuler parcel thereof, being rudely and dispersedly deuised, as also for the seuerall fancies therein contained, fit for euery degree, & agreeable to their diuerse affections) thought good to name it *The Forrest of Fancy*, and so causing it to be imprinted, I doe here friendly Reader, present it vnto thee as a gift, of my good will, desiring thee to accept it. And though my yong yeares and small experience, will not permit me to wryght so pithily as some haue done heretofore, whose worthy works are extant, and in great estimation, yet considering that I haue not done it, either for gaine or glory, but partly to make my selfe more apte in other matters of more importaunce wherein maye happen

To the Reader.

happen hereafter to be imployed, and partly to procure
thy pleasure and profite (which may easlye be obtained)
if thou doe duely consider, and rightly conceiue of that
which shall be offered to thy view, I beseech thee con-
sider my doinges to the best, take this my small labour in good
parte, amend the faultes escaped. Let my good meaning
serue to excuse my rashnes, in presuming thus boldly to
publish a thing of so small vaw, and vouchsafe me thy
friendly assistance against the flaundrous reportes
of enuious *Zoylus* and his mallicious mates, and
in so doing, thou shalt incourage me here-
after to search my wits, and apply my
trauaile to contriue some thing
more worthy thy
reading.



B.j.



The Forrest of Fancy.

CA morrall of the misery and mischief that raigneth
amongst wicked worldlinges, with an admonition to
all true Christians, to forsake their sinne and amend
their manners.



Do so he be that silent sits,
and sets his mind to see,
The subtile sights that wily wights
doe worke in each degree.
shall surely fynd full great abuse,
In euery place committed :
And verrue voyde and out of vse,
all reason quight remitted:
Wight maistereth right, the poze are pinchd,
almost in euery place,
Fraude, flattery, gold, and greedy gaine,
each where doth purchase grace.
But truth and plaine simplicity.
reapes hatred euery where :
Good dedes are dead, and charity,
hath hid her head for feare.
Whores hold the place that Matrons milde,
doe merite moste to haue :
And flattery flockes about the Court,
in steede of fathers graue.
The couetous carle doth scrape for coyne,
the rovyous sonne spendes all :
The true man cannot scape the theefe,
but in his handes must fall.
The Usurer now doth vse his trade,
The Landlord raise his rent :
The powling Lawyer playes his part,
the truth to circumuent.
Our Gentles now doe ierre it out,
in bawery passing measure,

The Forrest of Fancy.

Will they haue lost by baine expence,
both credite, land and treasure.
The Yeomans sonne not liking of,
his fathers honest state,
will climbe to be a gentle man,
and enery Gentles mate.
The Gentleman will be a Knight,
the Knight a Lord likewise.
The Lord an Earle, the Earle a Duke,
the Duke will higher rise,
And make himselfe a puissant Prince,
the Prince will Monarke be,
So no man now will be content,
To bide in his degree.
The sonne doth seeke his fathers death,
his liuing to obtaine,
Faith sayles in all few trusty friendes,
doe any where remayne.
The mayster seekes by rrogous meanes,
his seruantes to suppress,
And seruantes worke all meanes they may,
their maysters to distresse.
Now mothers trayne their Daughters vp,
In loathsome liberty:
whereby oft times their honest names
they bring in ieopardy.
Excess is vsoe in euery place,
the poore no whit releue,
Labour is loathde, and Idlenesse
ech where his web hath weude,
The Tauerne stiplers ply a pace,
eache alehouse hath his knightes:
In dice and dauncing, deuillish trades,
are all their whole delights.
All law is left for liberty,
all vertue changde for vice:

The Forrest of Fancy.

All truth is turnde to Trecherye,
all thinges inhaunce their pze.
Cache craftes man now hath craft at will,
his neighbour to defraude,
They sweare, and oft forswear themselves,
for enery foolish gande.
But is it well where eury thing,
doth seeme so much amis?
No doubtlesse no : a wicked world,
and wretched state it is.
A world in deede, denided quight,
from godlinesse and grace :
A world that greatly God abhorres,
from which he turnes his face.
A world it is, which will not last,
a world whose end is nye :
A world that shall his fury taste,
that sees our sins from hye.
A world that will full well content,
the enemy of our ioy.
A world that workes his lewd intent,
that would our soules destroy.
Therefore let each true christian hart,
his secrete sins forsake :
To God let him with speede reuert,
and meeke subiection make.
Committing all his actions still,
to his deuine protection,
So shall he surely shun all ill,
and liue without infection.

Finis.

After

The Forrest of Fancy.

After the death of Oedipus King of Theabes, his two sonnes *Ethiodes* and *Polinices* struiuing whether of them should succcede him, in the ende it was agreede, that they should raigne by course, one yeare the one, the next yeare the other, But *Ethiodes* rainging fyrst, whē his yeare was expired, woulde not giue place to his brother *Polinices*, which caused him to write vnto him in effect as followeth.



By cruell dealing hath procure,
thy Brothers trembling hand,
O *Ethiodes* for to write,
and let thee vnderstand
what iniury thou doest offer me,
in going thus about
To breake the promise made to me,
wherein thou doest no doubt,
Both God and nature much offend,
for when we were at strife,
when deadly discord swijt vs twaine,
and enuye was so rise,
That each of vs the Kingdome crande,
our father then decest,
It was by counsaile graue decreede,
to cause our countreyes rest,
That each should yearely raigne by course,
whereto thou didst agree,
Then drawing Lots who should be fyrst,
the lot did light on thee.
I gane thee place, as right requyde,
thou hast a yeare and moze,
Enioyde the same most peaccably
without annoy, therefore
Thou shouldst permit thy brother now,
thes therein to supply,

The Forrest of Fancy.

To rule as thou haste done befoze,
but thou doest it deny,
So much ambition doth thee blind,
and sylchy lakers lure,
That to religne to me my right,
thou mayst not now indure,
For when I did the same demaund,
thou proudly didst refuse,
To render it, wherein thou doest
thy brother much abuse,
But doest thou thinke I will receiue,
such aunswere at thy hand?
And suffer thee against my will,
to rule the Realme and land.
Which I should doe, that will I no
for all thy power and strength.
But in despight of thee I hope,
to haue the same at length.
And make thee feelee the smart thy selfe,
of this thy offred wrong,
If that to yeld to my request
thou doest the time prolong.
Adrastus is a mighty King,
whose Daughter is my wife,
And for that cause with all his power,
will aide me during life,
whose force conioyned with mine owne,
doth farre surpasse thy might,
Therefore let reason rule the raine,
doe yeeld to me my right,
Let vs like brethren liue and loue,
e ach other as we ought:
Let vs not stray from natures boundes,
and stirre vp strife for naught.
Least that Reporte reprochfully,
on vs doe rumour raise,

And

The Forrest of Fancy.

And so the race of Oedipus,
be wicked deeme alwayes.
what though our father did offend,
in taking to his fere
Forcast a fayre unwittingly,
that was his mother deare,
Shall that to vs a patterne be:
to teach vs to offend,
Nay rather let it be a meane,
to make vs to amend.
Shall it be sayd that we haue wrought,
the ruine of our land,
And of our selues so wilfully?
let all thinges well be scand.
Consider well what dangers great
we may incurre thereby,
And what great mischiefe may insue
if thou this thing deny,
Thou knowest that from the mighty Ioue,
decendes our royall race,
Let vs not therefore doe the thing,
that may our byrth deface,
Let not the Thebans iustly be
compeld to curse vs both,
For thy ambitious greedy mind,
whereof I would be loth,
For what if in this cursed strife,
we both should chaunce to dye,
what great contention should there be,
who should our place supply?
what great disdaine? what priny grudge?
what tumultes then would grow?
what hurly hurly would there be?
what treason then would flowe?
Through ciuill warre the countrey would,
be topsy turvy turnde

Strong

The Forrest of Fancy.

Strong holds would then be battered downe,
whole Townes and Citties burnde,
What clamours then. what dolefull cryes,
would be throughtout the land?
How many Orphans would be made?
who should in safety stand?
Chaste Virgins would be then deflowrde,
yong infants would be slaine,
The rich men should be spoylde and robde,
the poore put to paine,
Oh what disorder then would grow?
what murder made of men?
What sacraledge, what ransack rude,
what bloodshed would be then?
Waye well these thinges, my brother deare,
which if thou doe proceede,
Is lykely for to come to passe,
therefore I say take heede.
For if thou be the cause thereof,
then truly shalt thou crye.
Their blood on thee for thy desertes.
from heauen will vengeance crye.
And I not to be blamde at all.
sith that I nothing craue,
But that which doth to me pertaine
and I of right should haue,
Take heede in time, aduise thee well,
hereafter comes not yet.
The house can not stand long, that is
on ill foundation set.
The ship that at sure anker lyes,
is safe in enery place:
Twixt barke and tree. thrust not thy hande
beware in any case
Thou put not fyre vnto the tow,
Sharpe not thy knife I say,

The Forrest of Fancy.

If thou therewith wilt not be hurt,
but take this by the way.
That if thou tread vpon a woyme.
She will turne back againe :
Care stede be stolne, shut stable doze,
else is it all in vaine.
For he that takes not heede before,
shall after wardes repent it :
Wherefore I say looke to it well,
whilst that thou maist preuent it.
A man when he doth see the stroke,
may soone auoyde the same,
So thou if that to reasons loze,
thou wilt thy fancy frame.
Thou maist this mischiefee easily shun,
that hangerh ouer thee :
But to ho so blind the proverb sayth,
as hee that will not see.
Thou knowest all this as well as I,
I neede not make relation
Thereof to thee, wordes are but wind,
where will hath domination.
Vaine nothing profite can the corne,
which on drie stones is sowne :
For counsell, him which doth mislike,
all counsell saue his owne,
I can and doe bide wrong ynough,
but cannot to much beare:
Looke eare you leape, for seare you catch,
a wrong sow by the eare.
As by his Trumpe, the trumpicer
doth show his meaning plaine,
So by my letters in likewise,
my purpose I explaine.
Doe therefore as you shall see cause,
the blame shall byde in you :

The Forrest of Fancy.

If any thing amisse do chaunce,
and so I say adue,
Finis.

A warning to yong men to flye the flattery,
and shun the deceiptes of dissem-
bling dames.



What hard mishaps doth hamper youth,
when cursed Cupid list to frowne:
And yet he will not credite truth,
Till froward fortune sling him downe.
But when he is with dole distressed,

Then all to late he can perceine,
what madnes did his mind mollest,
His wretched woe by wrong to weane,
Yea then he doth all Dames desy,
And bowes in vaine their fraude to flye,

Must hozy heares needes make vs wise,
Discovering naked treasons hooke,
whose glittering hys by sight denice,
Doth make them blind that thereon looke,
And till in trappe they taken be,
That turnes their pleasure all to paine,
Their folly fond they cannot see,
Such madnes moues their busy brayne,
In wisdomes wayes they think they walke,
And so for these doe champe on chalke,

If liuing wightes might playnly see,
The wily workes of womens wits,
which conered close in bosome be,
Disclosde at last by frantike fits.

Then would they learne to leane their hookes,
And glaunce no more their glaring eyes,
Wppon those baites on hidden hookes,

The Forrest of Fancy;

Which whoso shall attempt to tast,
Is like for aye in woe to wast,

Where suiters serue with long delay,
In dayly hope of some good hap,
Tozmenting griefes at length both pay,
Their pencion with an after clappe,
For such rewardes they dayly fynde,
That fyre their fancy faithfully,
On any caste of Cressed kinde.
That neuer countes of constancy,
Whome Cue instructed long agoe,
To worke to man all greefe and woe.

Behold the gwerdon due to loue,
Bestowde vpon a sickle Dame,
As good of rotten rebes to proue,
Some precious iem in forme to frame,
For why repentaunce comes at last,
And gripes his hart with griesly greefe,
That erst fond fancy followed fast,
Which left him voyde of all reliefe:
A iust reward for rechelesse wightes,
That will not shun such vaine delights.

Youth bends his net to catch the pray,
Which some inioy that take no paine.
He toyles, yet seeth euery day,
His labour wasted all in vaine,
He beates the bush, and in meane space,
Another beares the byzdes away.
He fiercely doth pursue the chase,
Whilst others doe possesse the pray,
And so the end of louers gaine,
Is loathsome labour for their paine.

Finis.

C. A.

The Forrest of Fancy.
A plaine description of perfecte
friendship.

TTrue friendship unfained,
Doth rest vntrestayned,
No terrour can tame it:
Nor gaining, nor losing,
Nor gallant gay glosing,
can euer reclaine it.
In paine, and in pleasure,
The most truest treasure,
That may be desired,
Is loyall loue deemed,
Of wisdom eesteemed,
and chesely required.
Finis.

An Inuectiue against conetous
persons.

As after Sommer winter comes,
so age doth youth insue:
And after age comes sickness in,
then death doth life subdue,
And after death the winding sheete,
which bringes vs to the graue,
This is the state of mortall men,
this is the end they haue.
wherefoze doe men then heape vp coynes,
and hozd it vp so fast,
why doe they care for worldly mucke,
as life would euer last.
why doe they take such paines for thins,
which they must leaue behind,
To them that will disperse the same,
as chaffe against the winde.

The Forrest of Fancy.
Of fayned friendship.

A Swallowes doe in Sommer time appeare,
And in the winter cold cannot be seene,
So faithles friendes will vnto vs draw neare,
So long as welch doth flourish fresh and greene,
But when that sayles, then farewell friendship to,
All is for gaine, that these vile vipers do.

The commodities of Mariage,

If mariage bring a wife,
the wife good children bringes,
Those children happy life,
of happy life loue springes,
Of loue eternall ioy,
of ioy doth health proceede,
Of health long life for aye.
lo this is mariage meede;

In contrarium.

If mariage bring a wife,
the wife ill children bringes,
Those children endles strife,
of strife all hatred springes,
Of hatred care and greefe,
through care doth sickness come,
Through sickness death in breefe.
lo this is all the somme.

Finis.

Of the wickednesse of women and howe
prone they are to the procations
of the flesh.

One on a day disposed to iest,
with Iuno for delight,

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The wicked wiles of womens wits,
in wordes did plaine resite.
And said that they to fleshly lusses,
more subiect were then men.
Iuno denyde, to haue it tryde,
they craued iudgement then.
And for because Tiresias had,
both man and woman bin,
Supposing him the merest man,
and most expert therein,
They did elect him for their iudge,
the truth thereof to trye;
He sentence past with Iupiter,
and boldly did replye,
That women were the wantonner,
although for shame they sought,
For to conceale from open shew,
what was their secret thought.
But Iuno as the nature is,
of all the femine sect,
When as she saw Tiresias do
her wished will reiect,
In giuing so his sentence graue,
contrary to her mind,
(Inflamde with yre to worke reuenge,)
she made Tiresias blinde,
Therefore I must of force conclude,
that neither fary fell,
Nor Serpent dyre, not Tiger fierce,
nor all the fiendes in hell.
May more torment the mind of man,
or worke his wretched woe:
So much as can one wicked wench,
in whome doth fary floe.

Finis.

What

The Forrest of Fancy.

What small trust there is to be reposed in friendes
or kinfolkes.

Sith friendship is as rare a thing to finde,
As tis to see a Swanne all black of hue:
wise Esope in his Fables as we finde,
Doth warne vs well to thinke no friend so true.
That will be prest, our pleasure to fulfill,
So redily as we the same require,
For why in trust is treason tried still,
And fairest lookes doe lack the best desyre:
wherefore (saith he) let no man trust his friend,
To doe the thing which he himselve may doe,
For feare he be deceaued in the end,
By those whome he hath leaned most vnto,
For profe whereof a fable he resightes,
which who so notes, shall find to great effect;
The fraude of friendes he plainly there resites,
who to their promise haue but small respect.
A Lark there was vpon a certaine tyme,
That trained vpon her yong ones in a feild,
where Corne did grow, which then was euen in prime,
To be cut downe as ripe, the Lark to sheild
her little ones from harme, when as she went
Abrode to get such meate as should suffice
To feede them with, did giue commaundement,
That they should haue regard in any wise
To that they heard, and at her back retuene,
To tell her all: it hapned on a day,
whilst she was forth, that thither came the Boorne,
which ought the feild, which to his sonne did say,
This geare is ripe and ready to be cut,
wherefore to morrow go thou in my name,
Vnto our friendes, and than in mind doe put
To come and helpe me to dispatch the same.

which

The Forrest of Fancy.

which charge his son discharge in each respect,
whereto his friends in friendly wise did frame
Their aunswere straight, that they would not neglect,
To worke his will, when night approachd was,
This Larke come home her byrds did flitter fast,
About her all and shewing what did pas,
Desyzed her, that she in all the haste,
Wold them transport vnto some other place,
But she perswading them to be content,
Commaunded them next day to lend good eare,
To that they heard, and so away she went.
Next day in field the farmer doth appeare,
With him his sonne, where all that day they spent,
But of his friendes there came not one of all,
wherefore vnto his sonne againe he said,
To morrow to my Colines goe you shall,
And say that I require their friendly ayde,
To reape my corne: the yong ones hearing this,
Wore earnest were with their beloued damme,
To be remoued from thence, but she p'wis,
Did let it slip vntill the next day came,
For why quoth she, no colins are so kinde,
I hat by and by will come at kinsemens call.
To morrow therefore marke what newes you find,
And then if neede require, Ile helpe you all.
Next day the Colins came not into place,
wherefore the good man sayd, all friendes farewell,
And kinsmen to, now will I chaunge the case,
And trust no trifling tale that they shall tell,
Trust to our selues we will, go thou my sonne,
Provide to sickles for thy selfe and me,
And by our selues it shall to mayne be done,
when as the Larke hard this, nay now quoth she,
Tis time indeede to pack away from hence,
Vntles we will each one destroyed be,
And so she bare her litle ones from thence,

Finis.

A

The Forrest of Fancy.

A Letter written by a yong maiden to a Louer of hers.
wherein she detecteth the trechery of many
men, and their great dissimu-
lation.

The crow would sceme a milk white swan to be,
So likewise would the prating rooke appeare,
Like Iunos byrd, which cannot well agree,
For kind bewayes his craft, this is most cleare
yea Copper oft in Silver is inclosde,
In glittering gol., great store of brasse doth bide,
In purest shels, as triall hath disclosde,
Carnels corrupt, themselves full often hide,
The wily wolfe we diuerse times do fynde,
In sheepes skin cloathde, and take the dusty wall,
With hangings faire is hid, in humaine kinde,
We also see the like effect to fall,
For many a one there is, that makes a show,
Of perfect lone, when he meanes nothing lesse,
Men seeke to bying pooze women to their bow,
And in the end to leaue them in distresse.
And for because I thought you one of those,
Whose pleasure is poze women to deceine,
With tatling tong you flatteringly can glose,
As by your deedes I dayly do perceane,
I sent to you a flower for flatterers fit,
Regarding naught how ye the same would take,
So free I am from biting on the bit,
As yet not drencht in Lady Venus lake.
If ought beside be done that you like ill,
And that the same in euill part you take,
Goe seeke your myndes you may whereas you will.
I reke you naught, this aunswere doe I make,
And though before, offence were none committed,
yet this your writing sond would it procure,

The Forrest of Fancy.

which hath full well with your demeanour fitted,
Being rude, and impudent, and ill to indure.
No more I neede at this time here to say,
For well you may by this my mind perceiue,
yet of one thing I warne you by the way,
That with vaine hope your selfe you not deceiue,
And so to conclude, I bid you adue,
wishing you aduisedly my letters to bie to.

A yong man enamoured of a very fayre Gentlewoman,
declareth the dollorous passions that he suffereth
for her sake, and craueth mercy at
her handes.

The more I looke vppon her louely face,
whose like befoze dame nature neuer framde,
The more I like, and long to liue in grace,
Of her that may Pandora well be namde,
whose deedes as due, the highest place haue claime,
A phenix rare, she may be feared right,
That so surmountes each other earthly wight.

Of Silke and Silver, seemes her beare to be,
Her teeth of pearle, her eyes of Chrysell cleare,
Her lippes of Ruby, wrought in each degree,
She doth excell, and vaunteth boide of peere,
Her like did neuer liue, that I could heare,
who would not then accompt himself in blis,
That might inioy, so rare a tem as this,

Sir Aleran as may by booke appeare,
A sily Baron, sought her loue to gaine
That was the Emperour Othos Daughter deare,
And did in fine his wished will obaine,
She graunted grace to quire his carefull paine,
And fearing nought her fathers furious ire.

The Forrest of Fancy.

Did yield her hart all whole at his desyre.

And Acharisto he but basely boꝛne,
Besought the loue of fayre Euphimia
who seemed nought his courtesy to scorn,
Though she were Queene of riche corinthia.
Yong Iason eke obtained Medea,
who though she knew not him noꝛ his estate,
Forsooke her friendes to be his matched mate.

A million moze I might alledge of those.
That did by seeking soone obtayne their will,
And when they were bewrapt in wretched woes.
Had speedy helpe to shield themselves from ill,
which otherwise their youthfull dayes would spill,
yea some we see from seruil state aduauist.
By woꝛthy dames whose grace to gaine they chaunst.

Then speake and speede, be still and want thy hye,
For many a time and oft I haue hard say,
And sometime pꝛoude, that he that would aspire,
For that which will doth wisd, the wisest way,
Is to expulse dispayre which makes men stray,
Farre from the path of perfect peace and rest,
Sith Fortune still, doth helpe the bouldest best.

For can the Leach recure his patientes paine,
Before he see from whence his greefe doth growe,
Or can the Lawyer pleade a matter plaine,
Vnles to him, his case the client shew,
Then should this dainty dame on me bestow
Her loyall loue before she trye my truth,
The meekest meane to moue her mind to ruth.

Then welcome hope, and foolish feare farewell,
Farewell all care, and welcome pleasant ioy.

The Forrest of Fancy.

That guilefull geist no more with me shall dwell,
That would my helth and happy hap bestoy.
What should I doubt, liff she is nothing coy,
Her gentle hart can not his hurt procure,
That for her sake would any death indure.

On her my health, on her my happy dayes,
Doc whole depend, on her my myrth or mone,
My welth or wo, my paine or pleasure stapes.
My lyfe and death doth rest in her alone,
By her I must, alas, or else by none,
Receave releefe, and hope to haue redresse,
Of all the paines that doe my mind oppresse.

And as her betowy bryde bindes me to loue,
So doth her courious countinaunce comfyt yelde,
And as she paine I feele my mind doth moue,
So hope perswades that grace shall gaine the field,
But hap what may, both loue and paine that builde
Their bolwer in brest, my sorrowes so renewe,
That forst I am for grace to seeke and sue.

Behold therefore deare dame thy seruante heare,
Lies prostrate at thy feete to pleade for grace,
Oh rue my state let pittie plaine appeare,
For thou alas hast brought me in such case,
As if I find not fauour in thy face,
Like one that loathes his lyfe I wish my graue
To quench the cares which doe my health depaue.

The bale I bide, I would right happy count,
And thinke my selfe in Paradise to be,
Yea in good hap all others to surmount,
might it but please you once to veme of me
As I deserue and graciously agree,
To take me for your seruant, slaue or swayne,

Whose

The Forrest of Fancy.

Whole mind to please, I would refuse no payne.

Few wordes will serue a righteous cause to please,
If Iudge be iust, by whome it must be tryde,
How said I: what shall I her dealing dread,
No no, I know she will not shrinke aside,
From reasons rule, at any time or tide,
But render me my due deserued hyre,
Which is the somme of all my whole desyre.

who serues, deserues, his recompence to haue,
who cruely loues, ought to be loude againe,
whose greefes are great, must needes a medicine craue,
Or else permit himselfe to pine in paine,
Let me deare dame my guerdon then obtaine,
And doe not now in lew of lasting lone,
with deepe disdain, my rash attempt reproue.

Finis.

Certaine Verses written in commendation
of the Nut cornell.

As late for my delight,
when dumps oppress my minde,
I walke abroad the pleasant fieldes,
in hope some helpe to fynde,
By chaunce I lighted then,
Upon a huge great wood,
whereas in rankes right goodly trees,
of sundry sortes there stood,
There were of large and losly Oaks,
great store in euery place,
Of Aspe and Elme, with byrche and Bore,
where euer I did trace.

There

The Forrest of Fancy.

There was great store of Holly to,
of willow asp and ew,
And all the ground was clad with flowers,
of sundry sene and hne.
Amongest the rest of Philberts sayre,
was plenty enery where,
And enery thing that hart could wish,
a man might find it there,
Then from this Philbert tree I pluck,
A cluster that were clong,
Togither fast in seemely sort,
as on the tree they hung,
And when I had them in my hand,
not knowing how to vse them,
I was at last by reason taught,
betwixt my teethe to bruse them,
which hauing done I found therein,
A Coznell sayre enclosde,
which for to be of pleasaunt tast,
I also then supposde.
And found it so, for in my life,
I neuer tasted thing.
More pleasaunt then the Coznell was,
which from that tree did spring,
The Philbert Cornel is a vish,
for any princes meete,
And they that of the same will tast,
shall find it wondrous sweete.
Aboue all other kinds of fruite,
the philbert in my minde,
Dorh seeme most pleasaunt in the tast,
as they that proue shall find,
Such vertue in this cornel is,
that I haue heard men say,
Philitions vse it many times,
their patientes paines to stay.

The Forrest of Fancy.

For many thinges this cornel is,
commodious yet beside:
As they can witness wondrous well,
that haue the vertue tryde.
And therefore as I did begin,
euen so I will not misse,
To say that of all fruit the best,
the Philbert cornel is.
Finis.

A Louer hauing long concealed his loue, at the last re-
uealeth it, and craueth fauour at the handes, of
his beloued mistres.



It haue I seene in others, and sometime proued
it in my selfe, that want of audacity, and feare
of repulse, hath brought many cares into the
minde, and greivous thoughtes into the head.
which being reueled and manifested to the causer thereof,
the party grieved hath fed on sorow, wholy bathed in plea-
sure, and receiued worthy consolation, wherefore calling
to remembrance this saying of Seneca, that hee whiche
feares, and suffers opportunity to slip, when hee knoweth
the wight that can cure him, may wel be accompted a wil-
full destroyer of himself.

Expelling feare, I haue at the last aduentured to craue
a remedy at your handes, on whome my helpe wholy de-
pendeth, whose wisdom and curtesy being suche as can
easily by outward Iestures, perceine the inward meaning
of the mind, and by secreete signes and priuy practises, soone
perceine where good will and affection is fixed. It were
superfluous to be anye large discourse in declaring what
great loue I beare vnto you, whiche by how much it is of
longer continuance, by so much is it more extreame, and
my tormentes thereby the more intollerable. For as tyre
the longer it lyeth couered, the more forcible it is, when it
bursteth

The Forrest of Fancy.

bursteth out, and harder to be quenched, so loue the longer
it is lodged in any man, and conceled, the moze beuement
it is, and moze difficult to be suppressed. Seeing then that
my lyfe being onely sustayned by the fauour of your de-
uinsgraces, cannot be maintained one onely minute of an
hower, without the liberall helpe of your sweetenesse and
verue, I beseech you, (if the hartie prayers of any mortall
tormented man, may euer haue force and power to mooue
you to pity) that it may please you of your rare clemencie
and accustomed courtely, with the dew of grace proceeding
from your sermely selfe, to redeeme from henceforth your
seruauntes moste miserable and afflicted mind from
death or martirdome, by reaping the fruite of
his vnfayned affection, as his
heart chiefely de-
syreth.



The Forrest of Fancy.

A Louer whose friend for his sake was froward'ye delte
withal, writeth vnto her, to perswade her with
paciencie, to suffer it for a season.

As one bewzapt in wailfull wo,
in dzyry dzyas I stand,
Least that my shippe on Rocks should rend,
or perishe in the Sand.
Least blustering blastes should dyne my barge,
to vnacquainted shore.
Least swelling waues should soke it so,
as naught may it restore.
To former state and strength againe,
least foes of foyern land:
Should make encounter with my men,
that may not long withstand.
Or least with some Stern should,
the pilate so allure,
As by that meanes, his losse and mine,
vnwisely he procure,
A thousand thoughts in head do swarme,
which will not me permit,
He night nor day my rest to take,
as nature deemes it fitt,
You are the ship, whose safety so,
my hart hath ever sought,
you are the Wacke for whose mishaps,
my head with care is fraught.
Such craggy cliftes, such greedy gulfes,
such sundry fortes of bandes,
Such dangers great, such perillous portes,
am told your passage standes,
Such whirling wiads, such blustering blastes,
which cleane contrary blow,

E, 4. 1111

Suche

The Forrest of Fancy.

Such tempestes straunge, such wallowing waues,
about you still doe flowe.

Such syrens with their subtil songes,
allure your pilate still:

I meane your mother that thereby,
she seekes to worke you ill.

Such homebred hatefull hellish bagges,
such friendly fawning foes,
whose priuie mallice pickes farre worse,
then byre amongst the rose.

which breeds my bale, and to my mind,
both dayly bring vnrest,

For feare least you by their despight,

should be to much oppress,

But sith as yet I see no way,

these euils to preuent,

with perfect patience arme your selfe,

till helpe from God be sent,

And pray to him with hart and voyce,

to further my desyre,

which once obtreind, doubt not to fynde,

such rest as you require,

And thereby be in such estate,

as they that now deuise,

To worke your too, to gaine good will,

shall then all meanes deuise,

Thus leauing now for lack of time,

a long discourse to make,

I bid adue, and kisse this scroule,

that you in hand shall take,

Hoping it shall as thankfully,

of you receaued be,

As I desyre most willingly,

your hart from harmes to free,

The Forrest of Fancy:

An admonition to Maisters, how they should behaue
themselves towards their seruantes.

Those whome we feare we cannot loue,
And whome we loue, not them we hate,
And whome we hate, we would remoue,
From former health and happy state,
And trapping them in traiterous snare,
In neede of ioy inioyne them care,

Let such therefore as mapsters be,
And haue the charge of many men,
To them be courtings, franke and free,
And well they shall be serued then,
Loude and obayde with faithfull hart,
As they doe merite by desarte.

But such as seeke by rigorous wise,
To be obaide and fearde of all,
Their seruantes will them much despise,
And seeke all meanes to worke their thral,
Although for feare they doe obay,
Thus prooue shewes plainly every day.

Finis.

A yong man finding her to whome he had plighted pro-
mise, to be fraught with another mans fruite,
wrighteth vnto her as follo-
weth.

All is not Gold that glistereth faire,
Nor all thinges as it seemes to be,
Fayre hangings hide the dusky wall,
So doth the harte the hollow te.

The Forrest of Fancy,

The flower that fayrest seemes in light,
Is not alwayes the sweetest smell,
But time that brings all thinges to light,
And doubtfull dread from mind expell,
Hath cryde thy treason and my ruth,
Thy secret slighes it doth detect.
Thy private hart now bewrayde thy willes,
Thy waverin'g wit, thy small respect
To plighted vowe, thy cloked craft,
Thy filthy life so close concealde,
Thy double dealing diuinely discloses
And nill desires it hath reuallde;
Unto my praise and thy reproche,
But who would looke for other gaine?
At handes of her in whome no truth
Did euer yet bounchsafe to raine,
Like as the Siren with her songes,
And Crocodile with dolefull cryes,
Procures the Wilat to approach.
The place where greatest perrill lyes,
So had thou lured me to lout,
And like of thee about the coast
By flattering wordes by fained bowes,
And merre good will which thou profest,
But wordes are wind I well perceauce,
And womens bowes are made in vaine,
Their wauerin'g wits delight in chaunge,
And reason neuer rules the raine,
Ceases now shall seme us no more,
To bleare mine eyes as they haue done,
Thy filthy fact bewrayes thy loze,
For which great shame thou shalt not shoue,
The wine another hart maye moue,
To me the dieg yes thou a mind to leaue,
But thinke not so, for if thou dost,
Thou greatly dost thy selfe deceaue.

The Forrest of Fancy.

No mistresse, no, to yeld to that,
 We fare ye shall not me compell,
 I neede not one to tast my meate,
 My selfe can serue the turne full well,
 Let him therefore that sowde the seede,
 Enjoy the fruite thereof at will,
 His last is fittest for thy foote,
 To row thy Barge he best can skill.

Finis.

A Letter written to a yong widdowe, that was before
 matched with a very olde man, perswading her
 to make choise of one whose yeares
 weare more agreeable with
 her owne.



Mistresse, if I thought it necessarye for you
 to mooue for the death of your dead Hus-
 band, or if his life had bene so delightfull
 vnto you, as his death was happy for him-
 selfe, (because thereby he was not onely
 rid of the great torments that his poore af-
 flicted body sustayned in this world, but also attained to a
 more blessed life in the kingdom of heauen) I wold neither
 blame you for wishing him aline again, or perswade you fro
 lamenting his death (though I know it is nothing anayle-
 able) but rather wold rehoir you theer vnto, and with
 teares. (as an vnfaigned friende) helpe you to bewyle
 the losse of so comfortable a Companion. But seeing he
 was old, ampy, weake, impotent, and continually so afflic-
 ted with sicknesse as he was, and you so yong, and comely,
 a gentle woman as you are, you haue no cause to lament
 his losse, or be sorry for his death, seeing it pleased God, by
 calling him to his merce, both to release him of paine, and
 ease you of the great trouble long sustained with him, and

The Forrest of Fancy.

therefore I would wish you to shake of the vaine Ceremonies, that in such causes are commonly vsed, and frame your selfe againe to that blessed estate of matrimony, choosing one, who as well in yeares as otherwise, may be more agreable to your seruelye selfe, then your late husbande, whose old age, was rather a cosse then a comfote to your hart, being in nothing correspondent to your minde. or meete for your personage, for so ought every true christian woman to doe, as well for procreation of Children, as for other necessary commodities incident therevnto, whereof by meanes of your greater yeares, and more often exercise in worldly affayres, you haue better experience then I, and as you are not ignorant how convenient it is to marrye and how incontinent to leade a single life, so am I well assured that you are not to learne what kind of person were most meete for you to match withall.

The Discommodities growing by the compagne of an old man, you haue already, to your paine, ouer long experienced, and therefore I doubt not, but you will beware how ye light on the like againe.

And to marry with a yong man, vnlesse it bee one, of whose demeanour you haue made some tryall, maye be as perillous as the other, for if he be rich, he will ouer rule you, if he be prodigall, he will waste your substance, and his owne patrimony, if he be conetous, he will keepe you bare, and withhold from you that which is necessary to be had, if he be lasciuious he will leaue you, and like better of others: Finally, if he be viciously bent, how rich or yong, sacker he be, yet were you better to be buried then matched with him.

Let not then the vayne vanities of the worlde so allure you, or the perswasion of your friendes heare suche swaye with you, as you will thereby be moued to take one for his wealth whom ye cannot loue, and to refuse him whom ye well like of, for want of habilitie, considering what incontinence groweth by the one, and what profits may aryle
of

The Forrest of Fancy.

of the other, waping withall, how great an offence both to God and your owne conscience it is, to do a thing so contrary to your own liking.

Wherefore it were best for you to make choyse of some poore yong man, whose conditions and behauour is already partly knownen vnto you to be good, with whom you may with a contented minde, leade a quiet and peaceable lyfe, and haue all thinges at your owne desyre, without interruption.

And if I thought not my selfe to symple, for one so woorthy as you are, I would both offer my selfe vnto you, (not as a Husbande, but as a sereward, to do all thinges at your direction,) and also hazard my lyfe to obtaine such fauour at your handes, assuring you, that if it might so please you, to accept of me, you should of a poore friend, finde mee so faithfull, so consoymable to your will, so carefull for your welfare, so redy to please you, and so lothy to offend you, as you shall not haue cause eyther to thinke your loue euill imployed, or repent you of the election of so base a personage.

And although in byrth I be farre inferiour, and in wealth nothing comparable vnto those that I knowe you maye haue, if you please. yet dare I thus much vaunt of my selfe, that there is not in the whole worlde, any one that would be moze loue, esteeme, and cherish you, than I would do, if my hap might be so good to iunior you.

And if my purpose be not as my wordes doe pretend, and my deedes agreable with my promises, I wishe the earth might gape and swallow me vp, or fyre from heauen consume me, for I protest vnto you before God, from whom no secretes are concealed, that it is not so much for your wealth or lining that I desyre you, as for your wisdom, surtely, comly behanour, and other commendable vertues that abound in you, wherefore long before your husbandes departure, I was so greatly enamoured, as if feare of your displeasure, and mine owne infamie had not deteyned me with the raines of reason, I had long since re-
needed

The Forrest of Fancy.

dealed it vnto you But now that time haeth offered mee so
meete opportunity, as I maye moze lawfully, and with
litle daunger do it. I haue presumed though peradventure
moze rashly then becometh me, yet not without vrgente
cause, to manifest my meaning vnto you, crauing both par
don for my bold attempt and easement of my sorrowe so
long sustayned for the loue of you, which withoute yours
grace or mine owne great pererrill, cannot possible bee re
pelled, wherefore hoping of your accustomed clemency, to
find you fauourable in the furtheraunce of my desyre. I do
wholly commit my healeth lyfe and liberty vnto you, whom
I doe and will faithfully serue and obey for euer, as your
moste humble seruaunt.

A pretty fancy of the fynding of a Whyte, wherein is
collourably included the course of a Captiue Lo
uer, in purchasing his desyred purpose.

NO: long agoe with bow in hande,
and arrowes by my syde:
An Archer like I went abrode,
my cunning to haue ride,
And being entred in the field,
I cast mine eye a scancke,
And loe a goodly glistering whyte,
before my face did glaunce,
Which pleasant sight did please me so,
as to suruay the same,
We thought it did my hart much good,
and was my greatest game.
Narcissus fond did neuer gaze,
vpon his shadow more,
For by the Image which he made,
Pigmallyon set such store,
As I did by that pretty whyte,
which so remunde my hart,

The Forrest of Fancy.

As whilst it was within my sight,
I felt no paine nor smart.
But if I once did turne away
from it my dazeling eyes,
Good Lord : what cares within my brest,
did by and by arise.
So that as one berefte of sence,
as still as any stone :
I stode at last and could not sturre,
But stared still vppon,
This passing white, much like to those,
whome worthy Persens made,
For to behold grim Gorgons head,
that causde their force to fade
And turnde them all to stockes of stone,
for their outragious pride,
In seeking causelesse his decap,
whome Ione himselfe did guide,
Then rusht in reason by and by,
in comly collours clad :
And calde alowde, to cause me heare,
that earst no hearing had,
And when I was againe rewinde,
with counseinaunce grane and sad,
why standst thou sencelesse thus,
beholding of the thing,
That still the more thou lookest thereon,
the more thy paine doth spring.
Lookes will not serue to swage thy greefe,
they rather cause thy care,
Therefore to put my wordes in prooffe,
see thou thy selfe prepare:
Resort with speede to pitties place,
intreate her for to wrighte,
Some pitous plaint in thy behalfe,
to shew thy painfull plight.

The Forrest of Fancy.

To Lady betwy, that for may,
When she hath tryde thy truth,
Receiue thee as her seruauit inst,
and on thy wo haue ruth,
Then teaching me which way I should,
the path to pittie finde,
And how I might in eche respect,
declare to her my minde.
She went her way I know not how,
but I to gaine relcefe:
And purchase that which was in dedde,
my ioy and comfozt cheefe.
Did euery thing as she had wilo,
and when I had obtainde,
At pitties hand my bill of plaint,
Straight wayes my steppes I straine,
To betwries bower and there arinde,
and knocking at the gate,
Straight started out an ougly wighte,
whose hart did harbour hate.
He asked me what was my will,
and why I did resorte
Unto that place, to whome in hyese,
I made a true repozte
Of all my state, and why I came,
which done he sayde to me.
Alas poze Lad thou arte vnwise,
and boyde of skill I see:
what thinkest thou beare to purchase ease,
no no thou art deceaude,
Therefoze depart, orlfe be sure,
thy wo will soone be weande,
My mistresse she to losse lookes,
to lende an eare to thee,
She will not harken to thy sute,
but if thou earnest be,

And

The Forrest of Fancy.

And moue her minde with many wordes,
in Dungeon deepe be sure
Thou shalt be cast, and during lyfe,
with daunger there indure,
where sadnesse shall assaile thee still,
and sorrow seeke to share
Thy vitall thread, yet shalt thou line,
and leade thy lyfe in care.
So long as destinies doe permit,
beware therefore I say,
Take heede in tyme, turne backe againe,
and seeke some surer way.
These wordes did fill my hart with feare,
and made me doubt to doe
The thing which comfort did commaund,
and fancy forst me to.
And had not hope bene hard at hande,
to hartten me herein:
Dispayre had put me from that place,
such force his wordes did winne:
And in this sort sayde Hope to me,
Fond foole why dost thou flye,
The pleasaunt place wherein thy rest,
and happy health doth lye.
Retourne againe, and feare thou nought,
thy practise put in prooffe,
O Lady Bewray moue thy sute,
as best for thy behoofe.
For such her gracious goodnesse is,
as neuer will she hide,
That any suffer bale for ought,
but that when time hath tryde,
His true intent she will vouchsafe,
to him his hartes desyre
In eachs respect, assure thy sel'e,
then hope for happy byre,

The Forrest of Fancy.

I gaue her thanks for good aduice,
and sayd I would obey :
wherewith she brought me to desyre,
who made no longer stay.
But led me vnto Bewties bower,
and bad me there attend :
Till she with all her frame came forth,
and meekely then to bende
My knee, in offering vp the bill,
vnto her gracious hande,
Desyring her to view the same,
my mynde to vnderstande.
Which I obserue in each respect,
my bill she doth detaine,
God graunt it worke so good effect,
as I some hope may gaine.
To purchase that which pleaseeth me,
much more then all the Golde
That Midas oz King Cressus had,
my iopes might not be tolde.
If I iniopde that Jewell rare,
A hat pearle, that pzeious whyfte,
Which though it clad my corpes with care,
doth yeeld me great delight,
And if Dame bewties curtesy,
commit the same to me,
How much I would accompte thereof,
she would perceiue and see,
As Diamond deare I would it see,
in collour of my hart,
And keepe it still with busy care,
till death doe cleane conuert,
My corpes to clay from whence it came,
and leane me voyde of lyfe,
Pe heauenly powers then graunt it me,
to make my iopes more ryfe.

How

The Forrest of Fancy.

How Altamenes hauing vnwares slaine his owne Father
Cartareus died for sorrow, when he had know-
ledge thereof.

In Crete which now we Candie call
a fertill fruitfull Land,
One cartareus sometime raignde,
and Septure bare in hand.
who had to sonne a noble youth,
a skoute and ballyaunt knight,
In prowes proude to haue no peere,
and Altamenes highte
This yong mans name, who being then
desirous for to know
what destiny should to him betide,
the Oracle did shew.
That he should cause his fathers death,
which sentence when he heard,
Desirous for to shun the same,
with speede him selfe preparde
To go and dwell at Camiros,
which towne in Rhodes doth stand,
But that which God pretended hath,
no Creature may withstande:
For after in a little space,
Cartareus for to see,
His sonne desyring very much,
such lucklesse lotte had hee,
That he by might at Camiros,
arined on this sorte,
But with the there inhabitants,
as wrighters doe reports,
His men then falling at debate,
whereby a tumult rose,

The Forrest of Fancy.

In which was Altamenes then,
to cause his treble woes,
And lue his Father vnawares,
which when he vnderstoode,
Ashamed soze, and halfe dismayde,
he went with heauy moode.
To wander in the wildernesse,
and dangerous desertes wide,
where after many pittious plaintes,
at last for dole he dide.

Finis.

The Authour writeth this in commendation
of his mistresse.

YOU Ladies now leaue of your strife,
For Golden fruite without delay,
And thou that art Vulcanus wife,
religne the same with speede I say,
To mistresse mine, that doth deserue,
for to possesse the same by right,
From this my best seeme not to stocne,
Least thou be forst in open sight
Perforce to yeeld it vnto her,
and so be put to open shame,
Lee not thy Godhead make thee erre,
If thou wilt shun all blot and blame,
It is not all thy gloze great,
Nor yet thy soune Cupido he,
That makes thee so with pryde replete,
Or else thy fathers high degree,
That may my mistresse once distaine
In any point, who doth thee passe
As farre as Golde doth copper plaine,
Or perfect Emrod byttle glasse.

The Forrest of Fancy.

As farre as Phebus doth surmount,
The starre that lendes least light of all,
Above thy reache then doe not mount,
Least thou receaue the greater fall,
To her good Grisell may giue place,
Though great her pacience werc in deede,
And constant Constance in like case,
For Constance doth them both excede,
Her name and deedes so well agree,
That they doe varry in no thing,
In sooth it is a ioye to see,
The vertues that from her doe spring,
I know when she meete time shall see,
On any one to fyre her harte,
She will like chaste penelope,
Continue his till life depart,
That flattering wordes or fyled phrase,
Or golden giftes, or greedy gaine,
Her constant mind shall neuer erase,
Or make her chaunge her former frame,
That ballyaunt deedes done for her sake,
For ferured fozme, nor fine deuises,
Shall cause her flye from chosen make.
Or to fond folky her intice,
That neither Fortune good nor bad,
Nor store of wealch nor wofull wante,
Nor smyling cheare, nor countinaunce sad,
Nor absence shall obliuion plante.
That neither thyeats nor lowzing lookes,
Nor dread of daunger shall her draw,
From him whom fyrst for friend shee takes,
No man may keepe her so in awe,
No greefe can gripe her hart so sore,
No paine can pinche her so, that she
will leaue her faithfull friend therefore,
How base of byyth so eare he be.

Though

The Forrest of Fancy.

Though this I haue not yet seene proude,
I am right sure it will be so,
For neuer saw I her minde moude,
With trisling tales for friend nor foe,
That she would take in hande the thing,
which was contrary cleane to right,
but enen as vnder vertues wing.
She had bine trainde. She seemes in sight,
Thise happy therefore shall he bee,
Whose happc shall be so good to get,
This precious Jewell franke and free,
That will by him so highly set.
And will not any tyme neglect,
The duty of a louing wise,
but please his minde in eche respect,
Still studying to inlarge his lyfe.
And blest am I aboue the rest,
That haue obtainde to be her man,
who purpose still to doe my best,
To please her mind in all I can.

Finis.

An Exhortation to Pacience.

Vhen griping geeces do greene the minde,
The meekest meanes that men may finde,
which God and nature hath assignde,
Is pacience well applyde:
For pacience puts all paine to flight,
Yea pacience makes the hart delight,
And doth reuine eche dulled spright,
by reasons rule and guide.
For euery soze, a salve it is,
It turnes all bitter hale to blisse,
And he that hath it, shall not misse.

The Forrest of Fancy.

To tast of heavenly ioyes.

Throughe it the miser likes his lyfe,

Throughe it he bydes his bawling wife,

Throughe it he flies all hate and strife,

And nothing him annoyes.

Throughe it he suffers false reports,

And loathes to lye in lawlesse Courtes.

Pea patience dayly him exhortes,

To hold himselfe content :

And though his happe be good or ill,

Yet being arm'de with patience still.

No euill once he shall fulfill,

But be to vertue bent.

Wherefore say patience let vs play,

To drive all browly bumpes away.

That euery hower doth vs annoy,

Throughe froward frowning fate,

For best we are on euery syde,

Not knowing safely where to hyde.

And therefore lacke so good a guyde.

To better our estate.

God graunt vs euer of his grace,

That perfect patience to embrace,

Whiche may be moude in euery case,

And keepe all furious rage.

Let patience put vs still in mynde,

And make vs hope good hap to fynde,

When moste with cares we are combynde.

To double good desire.

Finis.

To alquiesce the hart and minde,

To shewe the way to the ende.

To shewe the way to the ende.

To shewe the way to the ende.

To shewe the way to the ende.

To shewe the way to the ende.

The Forrest of Fancy,

A Louer writing to his chosen friend, who for his sake
susteyned much sorrow, exhorteth her to continue
true constant, and patiently to tollerate
her present aduersity in hope
that better happes will
insue.



Mine owne good Pamena, When on the
one syde I consyder with my selfe, thy in-
comparable curtesie, in requiering my faith-
full and vnfained affection with the lyke,
and graunting me principall possession of
thy harte, and on the other syde remem-
bering the sorrow thou sustainest, through y^e vnnatural dea-
ling of such, as vnder shew of friendship, intende nothing
but fraude.

And therewithall considering my vnabilitie to this pre-
sent, which will not serue to promise for ever, and I would
my sorow, for inioying thee, that according to thy desire is not
halfe so great, as my griefe, and greivous for the sorrow
thou sustainest, but for as much as patience as Cicero saith,
is such a vertue as it comforteth the heauie, reioyseth the
sad, contenteth the poore, helpeth the sick, easeth the paine-
full, and hurteth none, but helpeth all: I exhort you to em-
brace it, and to the vttermost of your power to vse it, com-
forting your self in this calamitie, with a true hope, that
after these harde happes, will follow a more blisefull and
queter estate, considering the mutabilitie of fortune to be
such, that she neuer standeth long at one stay, but as after
a moste terrible storme, alwaies insueth a more pleasant
calme, so she seeming most extreme, I will on the sodaine
ware moste fauourable, as appeareth by the Example of
one Adulatia Daughter to Otho, the thirde Emperour of
that name, who firing her fancy vpon one Aleran, a Cen-
sleman of small accompt, and the yongest of all the bre-
theren

The Forrest of Fancy

theren of the Duke of Saxony, who lyke wise loued her intyely, lefte her father, friendes and countrey, for his sake, and wandring with him, vnto whome she wholly committed her selfe, into places vnkown, and in the way as they fled, being taken and spoyled by theenes, and robbers, and afterwarde forced for extreame neede, to make coles, and sell them for their owne sustenance, patiently suffering that miserable aduersity, and comforting themselves with hope of better happe in time to come, in the ende by Gods prouidence, and the valyaunce of their yong Sonne, who by that meanes was made known to his Grandfather Otho, they were remoued from that miserable estate, aduanced to high dignitie and made heyres to the Emperre.

By this worthy Example, it appeareth howe carefull God is for the preservation of those, that patiently suffering aduersity, doe put their whole trust and confidence in him, nothing at all dispayning of his mercy, but hoping by his onely meanes to be deliuered from all their calamity, which hope he will not leaue frustrate, and though he suffer them for a season so to be afflicted, yet will he not giue them ouer, but in the end, when they least looke for it, will to their great ioy and comfort, bring them to a more happy and blisfull state, as he did the good Earle of Engers, and many other that patiently suffered the Crosse that god had layde vpon them, and reposed their whole trust in his mercy, which neuer fayleth the faithfull.

By this Hystorie of Adulatia wee are also admonished faithfully to loue, when promise is plighted, and neither for pleasure nor paine, for ioy nor anoy, for welth nor wo, for force nor feare, for fraude nor flattery, for friend nor foe in prosperitie or aduersitie, to alter our sytse sytme and faithfull determination, or forsake whome wee haue once chosen, so long as life lasteth, but constantly to continue, and faithfully to perseuer in the same so shal God blesse vs and prosper all our doinges, and after the mistes of misery if any happen to assaile vs, bring vs to the clare lighte of

The Forrest of Fancy, 1011

felicitie as he did saye Adulatia, who neither for feare of
fathers displeasure, or care to continue his good will, for
loue of imperiall dignity, or dread of any danger, no, not
for the fierce assaults of scoward Fortune, or for any other
cause would forsake her Aleran, but preferring his loyall
loue, before all worldly pleasure, and his presence before al
princely Ornamentes; both in health and sicknesse, in
wealth and woe, and finally at all assages continued his
true and faithfull companion, for tearme of lyfe. We sygne
therefore my good Parmena, and saye not, but as I intend
still to continue as loyall a louer to thee, as euer was Aleran
to his Adulatia, so be thou as faithfull a friend vnto me, as
was Adulatia to her beloued Aleran. So shall no enmity
but amitie, no repentance but contentment, no iarring, but
ioy be euer betweene vs, and though our friendes frown
vpon vs, or kinred contemne vs, and our parentes re-
gious vs, yet through patient sufferance, in tract of time
which breedeth change in all thinges, we shall by Gods
helpe, and our owne diligent industrie, recouer all for-
mer good will and fauour, and after all the assaults of
aduerse Fortune, attaine to the happy poxe of rest and
tranquillity, with which hope I purpose alwayes to com-
fort my selfe, wishing you also to doe the like, as I truste
you will, and hartly require you to doe, so neare as you
can, as well for your owne releefe, as for the rest and
comforte of him that loneth you, no less

then his owne proper lyfe,
Fare you well,

Finis.

The
The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The Authour wrighting to a friend of his, that was
toward mariago, exhorteth her to make
choyse of a wyse and vertuous
person.

There is nothing wherein we ought to take,
So great aduise, as sayeth Aurelius wise,
As when we mind a mariago for to make,
wherein we must be carefull and precise,
Or else thereby great perrill may arise,
Because the knot once knitt in order due,
May not be broke, what euer chaunce inue.

But soure there are, that will without respect
Of future harmes that may to them befall,
The counsell of their aged friendes reject,
As frantick wightes, to folish fancy thrall.
And harkening to the Sirens subtle call,
Procure thereby, their ruine and decay,
where else they might haue liued in lasting ioy.

Yet would I not that women so attend,
To friendes aduise, or folow them be led,
That fancy first bypon some loyefull friend,
They should forsake the same for feare or dread.

For so they may toome bring a foole to bed,
And being linckt to one they cannot leeke,
be moued amisse reuengement due to seeke.

Some loytes there are, that well by husbandes chuse,
Because they should maintaine them fine and chaste,
Some loytes there are, that others all refuse,
A comely wight desyring most to haue,
A ballpauit veynous youth some solycreane,
Some like of those that be most franke and free,

The Forrest of Fancy.

And some of those that harde and sparing be,

The gallant gay some chiefly doe esteeme,
In one that curteous is, some moste delight,
A cunning craftes man, some for best do deeme,
But few or none esteeme the vertuous wight,
By wise and prudent men they set but light,
Few linke for loue, but all for greedy gaine,
Though in the ende it tourne them most to paine.

Bewty doth fade, when crooked age crepes in,
And like a Flower the sommer season past,
Ript with the cold when winter doth begin,
Doth wither soone, and weare a way at last,
And sicknesse makes the mighty man agast,
And takes from him all strength and courage nighte,
But vertue still abides in perfect plight.

In welch or wo in paine or pleasure still,
Vertue remaines without repose at all,
Not dreadfull death that doth the Carcas kill,
The power of vertue may in ought appall.
It liues with praise, and neuer perishe shall,
For after death his glory resteth still,
What whilst he liued, did leade a vertuous life.

Therefore my friend I tenderly thee aduise,
To match with one that is to vertue bent,
For bewty bziell is and of no price,
Money but muck, and quickly will be spent,
Strength soone destroyed, & sicknesse to consent,
But vertue still in perfect state doth stand,
It keepe his course as well by sea as land.

Moreouer I would wish thee sayre make,
A by choise thy selfe whereas thou liuest best,

And

The Forrest of Fancy.

And though thy friendes perswade thee for to take,
Some other might with greater wealth possesse,
Yet if thy mind and fancy be not past,
To like of him, then would I thee advise,
To leaue that loathsome lot if thou be wise.

For whereas loue doth lacke witte man and wille,
There hatred needes must haue in their will,
Where hatred hath his holde, is endlesse strife,
where strife is stryde, there pleasure hath no part,
where pleasure is displeasure, there keepe the marke,
where care doth keepe, yet cannot long endure,
Then care thou linke let loue be leue sure.

Finis.

Of the great patience and clemency of King
Antigonus.

When as Antigonus did heare,
His souldiers cursing him apart,
Because that in an euening darke,
He led them through a myste place,
That thence they hardly could escape,
He came himselfe to them in wayne,
And very well did helpe them out,
which friendship when he had them shewne,
He sayd now curse Antigonus,
That led you lately in the myste,
But pray for him that helpt you out,
According to your better hope.

Finis.

What
the lesse should be

The Forrest of Fawcay. 1577

What misery and misfortunes mankinde is continually
subiecte vnto.

What kinde of state can any choose,
but he there in shall fynde,

Great bitterness and endlesse woe,
to moue his troubled minde,

In field much toyle, at home great care,
and feare in forrein Lande;

If ought we haue, by fortune lent,
In youth some follies haue,

Doth hold vs fast, perforce in brace;
and wisedomes loze do leaue,

In age doth sickesse vs assaile,
and so our strength bereaue.

In marriage is bannishment,
in lacking of a wife

All solitary we remaine,
and leade a loathsome lyfe;

If God to vs doe children sende,
we haue continuall care,

If none, then are we halfe dismayde,
farre woyle doe we feare;

Therefore one of these twaine is best,
despyed for to be:

Not to be borne, nor else to dye,
before these dayes we see,

Finis.

A louer hauing long concealed his loue, at the last re-
uealeth it and craueth grace at the handes of
his beloued mistresse.

Like as the silly soule,
That sceles himself distressed,

The Forrest of Fancy;

with heany burthen on his backe,
doth seeke to be at rest.
So I whome loue long tyme,
hath led in Captiue bandes,
Enforced am at last to sue
for fauour at thy handes,
That hast my hart in holde,
who onely mayst apply,
Some pleasantt potion to a swage
the greuous mallady,
which long with little ease,
and most incessant greefe.
Hath me conserude, twigt life and death,
denoyde of all relcefe.
But needes I must confesse,
There is no fault in thee:
That I doe want my wished will,
the blame doth hide in mee.
For feare, I ones mortall foe,
which caused me to hyde
My secrete sorowes long sustaine,
from thee in whome doth hyde,
The cure of all my care,
hath made me faile to finde,
The thing that most mighte ease my hart,
and ease my troubled minde.
But now all feare expulst,
Loue, hope, and hope desyre,
Hath forced me in lew of paine,
to craue deserued hye.
Which giuerowth either graunt,
else shalt thou shortly see,
That life will leaue my loathsome copes,
and all by meanes of thee,
which loth I am should chance,
least to thy great reioyce,

The Forrest of Fancy.

It blazed be, that thou art she
 that set my bale aboche,
 Take pittie on my payne,
 peruse my dolefull bearse.
 Let trickling teares and secret sighes,
 into thy intrailles pearce.
 Oh rue my rusfull state,
 my yonthfull yeares respect,
 And let the tormentes I sustaine,
 enforce thee to reiect
 All retchlesse rigour, take, embrace,
 loue, like, and neuer leane.
 The twight that will in spight of spight,
 to thee for euer cleane,
 who beare in lew of loue,
 doth vow himselfe to thee,
 Thy slaue, thy seruaunt, and thy friend,
 till dying day to be.

Finis.

Certaine verses written in commendation

of the Rose,

As sundry sortes of men in world there be,
 So sundry mindes in them also remaine,
 And in one point they seldome do agree,
 That one thinks good, another thinketh bayne,
 That one desyzes, another doth disdain:
 And that doe in flowers great pleasure take,
 Desyre the Rose, my nosegay swete to make.

The valyaunt man doth most delight in warre,
 The coward craves to live at home in peace,
 The astronomer to view eche twinkling starre,
 The covetous carle his substance to increase,

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The prisoner poze doth couet most release.
But I that doe in Flowers great pleasure take,
Desyre the Rose my nosegay sweete to make.

The husbandman full barnes desyre to haue,
The Faulkener doth in Faulcon most delight,
The Hunter he good boundes doth chiefly craue,
The mighty man reioiceth in his might,
The amorous Dame to shew her bewty bight,
But I that doe in Flowers great pleasure take,
Desyre the Rose my nosegay sweete to make.

The pretty panner for collour I commend,
Though in the same no sweetenesse restes at all,
From Basill doth a saour sweete attend,
Yet doth the same the senses sore appall,
The appetite is marred much withall.
Therefore doe I, in Flowers that pleasure take,
Desyre the Rose my nosegay sweete to make.

Distill it makes a water wondrous sweete,
Of vertue great and good for many things,
The oyle thereof, full many things sweete,
Because much ease to them it often brings,
The flower is worne of Ladies, Ladies and Kings,
And I that doe in Flowers great pleasure take,
Desyre the Rose my nosegay sweete to make.

From point to point to passe this pleasant flower,
And feel it that it doth burne by right,
For I learninge lacke it lies not in my power,
Therefore to them that better can indite,
I leave the same to put in perfect plight,
But still I will in Flowers that pleasure take,
Desyre the Rose my nosegay sweete to make.

The Forrest of Fancy.

The Lover after long absence having renewed his loue,
by beholding the bewty of his beloued mistresse,
tuenth vnto her for grace, for the appea-
sing of his passyons.

VVether it were by my good or euill aduenture, that
of late I beheld ye, I know not, but surely at the
same time, I did so contemplate the rare betwtye and other
excellent Ornamentes of nature. wherewith you are most
plentifully enriched, as euer since I haue felt in my selfe, so
cruell and continuall a Combate, as I feare me withoute
your speciall grace and fauour, for furtherance of my ser-
uent desyre, I shall not be able long to continue, loue on
the one syde assaileth me, Reason on the other syde inua-
deth me, Hope pricketh me forwarde, and feare pulleth mee
back from attempting that whiche maye either reauie my
lyfe, or restore my libertie, according to the good or euill
successe that it hath.

But loue at the last banquishing reason, and hope aban-
doning feare, cho rather by meanes of the good intertine-
ment, friendly familiarity, and undeserued curtesie, whiche
I haue hitherto shewed to you, I am the more imbottomed
by these few lyne in mine own paynt to passions, whiche
I continually tuffe for, your sake, worthy to ease the mind
of the greeces that grow by concealing it, and to purchase
remedy for the getenous malady that putteth me to suche
importable paine, whiche being only in you to graunte, I
hope you will not be so cruell harted as to denaye it mee.
For as my loue towards you, farre exceedeth all others,
and as my faithfull seruice, and true hearted seruice bet-
ter recompence then a false and rigorous refusal. So am
I fully perswaded to find your pitifull hart ready to reue
my calamities, and with the balm of your beniuolence,
saluting the sores that so afflicteth mee, render mee a bette-
re peace worthe my deserving, wherein referring my selfe
wholy

The Forrest of Fancy.

wholy to your clemency I leaue to trouble you any further
for this time.

Of a Souldyer who for conitounesse of a little money,
lost his owne lyfe.

When Preneest had bine long besegged,
by enemyes strength :
with hunger and thyrst they were full soze,
opprest at length.
That many a one for lack of foode,
was forst to dye,
Amongst which soze there then was one,
did lyketwise lye,
As did the rest in extreame payne,
vntill he caught,
A little egonse, which one of him,
for money bought.
A hundred pence he moze esteemde,
then lyfe to saue,
Although long time the vse thereof,
he might not haue.
So couitons was this mylers wynde,
of worldly muck,
That when he might haue saued his lyfe,
such was his luck,
For loue of money he lost the same,
but was not he,
Requited with a iust reward,
as he should be,

Finis.

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The complaint of one Sidaspo, who was
inflamed with loue through the
bewty of his seruauant
Alcitha.

O Lothsome lyfe, oh frowning fate,
Oh fortune most vnkinde,
Oh death come pierce my painefull brest,
to ease my troubled minde.
Oh loue, nay lust, oh fond vespere,
oh cursed blinded boye,
What meanst thou thus to worke my woo,
and bzeede my great annoy,
I burne alas continually,
in such excessiue heate,
That nothing may therewith compare,
it seemes to me so great,
More hote it is a thousand times,
then Lothsome Limbo lake,
Or Etna hill, whose flaming flames,
no thing hath power to slake,
And yet some time wixt vnder then yet,
I am pore wretch againe,
Then by and by aduancing,
the raging herte doth raine,
whereas I was a mayster late,
and had ech thing at will,
Now must I serue as seruill slave,
to please my seruauant still,
what remedy, it bothe not
for me at all to strue,
Against the mighty power of loue,
Any man aline,
The Prince for all his princely power,
cannot his force withstand.

The Forrest of Fancy.

The valyauntest wight that euer liued,
durst not hold vp his hand,
Against Cupido for to strine,
or combat for to make,
The wisest can not shun his wiles,
he causeth all to quake,
yea euen the Gods themselves I fynde,
doe rest at Cupids grace,
And be but Subiectes vnto him,
in euery kinde of case,
When how should I a mortall man,
deuise to shunne the same,
How dare I once resist the wight
that euery thing can tame,
Alcetha oh my darling deare,
thou thou a lone art she,
which so hast laid thy snares abroade,
for to intangle me.
Thou art the dame that I despyze,
to serue and honour still,
Thou art the iewel of my ioy,
thou maist me saue or spill.
But stay: what wordes be these I speake,
shall I become a slaue,
And bondman to my seruant so,
her fauour shall I craue,
That should by reason still remaine,
at my despyze and will,
To doe the thing that I commaund,
though it be good or ill.
No no I rather forst will choose,
vnto the naked knyfe
My throte to yeld, than so I might,
bereaue my lothsome lyfe,
What if I should attempt the same,
what if I should requyre,

The Forrest of Fancy.

The same of her, I am not sure,
to purchase my desire,
But why doe I misdoubt the same,
before I haue it tryde,
why he that loneth feruently,
feares not to be denyde,
why should I any daungers dread,
to winne so fayre a dame,
well hoping for to gaine some grace,
my letters will I frame.

In dolefull wyle vnto my deare,
whose splendent bewty rare,
Hath so inflamde my hart with loue,
and cloyde my mynde with care,

A Letter which the said Sidaspo sente to his
seruaunt Aletha.

Thy bewty braue O Aletha,
thy brestes like diuine snow,
Thy Curall lippes, thy cristall eyes,
and heare which to the shew,
Appeares lyke gold, thy syngers small,
with skinne as yuoye cleare,
And eake thy woorthy qualitties,
which make thee to appeare.
More lyke a Goddesse for to be,
then any earthly wight,
would sure allure a stoupe harte,
in thee to haue delight.
For as the Fowler in his net,
the silly byrdes doth take,
So hath the same intrapped me,
which makes my hart to quake,
The Adamant stone would neuer draw,
the yron to it moze.

Then

The Forrest of Fancy.

Then hath your bewty dazwne my hart,
which makes me now deploze,
For lone of you I liue in care,
my sorowes doe abound,
And death will shortly end my dayes,
if helpe thers none be found.
By you I haue receaude this harme,
which none but you can cure,
In you it restes to ease the paine,
that I doe now indure.
Therefore I craue you, shew some grace,
to cure me of my greefe,
Let pittie in your hart take place,
to bying me some releefe,
Oh who is able to resist,
the feruent force of lone,
Or who once wounded with the darts,
is able to remoue
The same from him, now surely none,
though Hectors hart he haue,
Or Hercules strength it will not serue,
from Cupid him to saue.
Therefore O louing Lady deare,
bowe downe thy eyes of pittie,
Consider in thy skilfull braine,
that art both wise and wittye
What tormenies for thy sake I byde,
which by no meanes will cease.
Woe well how like a wretch I liue,
till thou doe me release.
By granting me my hartes desyre,
to cure my deadly smart,
whereby no harme may grow to thee,
but all to ioye conuert,
My lyfe my goods and all thinges else,
shall rest at thy desyre,

The Forrest of Fancy,

Even as thy owne at every time,
if thou the same requyre :
Let reason therefore O my deare,
perswade thee for to yeelde,
To my request by meanes thereof,
from sorowes me to shield,
Thus for this time I make an ende,
and wish thee well to fare,
In wofull wise, despying thee,
to thinke vpon my care.

Finis

The abiect Louer complaineth of the crueltye
and disdainfull lookes of his
Lady.

The mosse incessant painefull panges,
that I haue long sustaine :
By sundry meanes my feeble hande,
to write hath now constrainde.
Whereby to let thee vnderstand,
oh stony hearted Dame,
The thing that this my dolefull hart,
(to thy eternall shame)
Cannot conceale, and seeing that
thou rather seekst to be,
My mortall foe, then faithfull friend,
I doe the like by thee,
If (as I am) thou were a man,
then weapons would I vse,
For to reuenge my wrong on thee,
that doest me so abuse,
But sith the tongue the weapon is,
wherewith fond women fight,
My tongue and pen shall now suffice,
to worke the lyke despight,

The Forrest of Fancy.

Who strins against the streame I see,
or sailes against the winde,
Do sowerth seede in barren soyle,
but little gaine shall fynde,
So he that sets his loue,
where pyde hath taken place,
shall sooner catch his bitter bane,
then winne one sparke of grace,
As I vnto my paine,
haue proude to late alas
By seruing thee, oh scoznesfull dame,
that nought therefore doest passe.
For when by letters I,
my meaning doe declare,
Thy annswere scemes as bitter gall,
for to increase my care,
When as I smile, thou frownest.
and eake when I am sad,
Thou greatly seemst thou to reioyce,
as one whose hart is glad.
If I doe thee salute
in friendly wise, I see
Thou turnest then thy head asyde,
and windste away from me,
The Tyger fierce in tyme,
is made both meeke and tame.
The stone throughe often drops of raine,
that fall vpon the same,
Doth weare, the mountaines hye,
and strongest holds of all,
In tyme may by some casualtye,
be forst to ground to fall,
Yea Nilus may in tyme,
(for all his scope of streames)
Be dyed vp, and cleane consume,
throughe heate of Phebus beames,

The Forrest of Fancy,

There is no thing on earth I thinke,
but may in tyme conuirt :
Except it be in womans brest,
a hawty stubbozne harte.
Which neither reason, gentle wordes
noz pittie can procure,
For to reuoke hir wilfull minde.
that settled is so sure,
My wound was wondrous deepe,
the paines I did indure,
By meanes of thy great crueltie,
my sorowes did procure,
For thou in whome it onely lay,
to remedy the same,
In steede of salae didst popson yelde,
my ruine for to frame,
Oh cursed wretchlesse case,
of wicked woman kinde,
How can your hartes so cruell be,
to them that you make blynde,
what hart of flinte hath he,
who hauing hurt a man,
That is his friend, to cure his payne,
will not doe what he can.
But thou a cruell Crocodile,
Ingenyred in the floode,
Of foule Omikus wilt not graunt,
to doe thy patient good.
few women at this day doe lye,
that gypde themselves so well,
But if one vertue good there be,
which in their brest doth dwell,
Two woeful vices for the same,
is found in them to be,
which doe the vertues cleane deface,
and force them for to flee,

The Forrest of Fancy!

They can conditions change,
to cause their friendes unrest,
As the Chameleon chaungeth hure,
When as it likes him best,
If that they be disposed,
poze louers to allure,
They can as wily wayes inuent,
their purpose to procure,
As the Hiena can,
by learning of the name,
And calling them whose present death,
they purpose for to frame,
Such pittifull complaints,
the Sirens can not make,
As can these wicked women doe,
if once they vnder take,
No beast so hure as they,
if once they fall to vice,
No alle more foolish then they are,
yet doe they thinke them wise,
If one their betwty praise,
then doe they looke so hye,
As though they straigh waies would presume
to scale the lofty skye.
Yet doe I not condemne hereto,
all women to be ill,
But some yea euen the greatest part,
are subiect to their will,
As I haue had iust cause to say,
who proued haue the same,
Through thy unkindnesse shewde to me,
O most disdainefull Dame,
And therefore humbly doe I craue,
of heavenly Ioue above.
That thou for this thy crueltye,
like greeke to myne maist prone,

The Forrest of Fancy.

And thus I make an ende as now,
of this my bitter bearse,
As one compeld by womans pride,
their dealinges to rehearse.
Finis.

A commendation of the Cock,

Who can such worthy praises giue,
vnto the Cocke as he,
Desernes to haue, now surely none,
for first of all we see,
How carefull of our heales he is,
who least we should be harmde,
At midnight with his crowing oft,
doth warne vs to be arme,
And at the dawning of the day,
to lerisy our minde.
He doth the lyke, and biddeth vs,
good morrow in his kinde,
Againe were not the Cock I pray.
what doultrie should we haue,
what other hyzde or pleasaunt soule,
that we so much doe craue,
Our daintie Dames should be content
to seede on courser fare,
If that it were not for the Cocke
that dainties doth prepare.

A commendacion of the Robin redde breſt.

VVhen Hyems with his hoſſe froſtes,
and blustering Boreas blaſte,
Had runne his race, and Lady Ver,
his pleaſaunt course had paſt,

Then

The Forrest of Fancy.

Then Eneas entred in by course,
and Phebus golden rales,
whose scorching heate mild Zephirus,
allwagde at all assayes,
were spread abroade throught every coste,
which causde eche thing to ioye,
Then was it pleasure great to see,
the little Fishes play,
And friscoes fetch about the bankes,
to fynde some pleasaunt baits,
whiles they vnwares intangled are.
by Fishers foule decetre,
Then every tree is fresh and greene,
then Flora on the ground,
Her mantell spreades, and fertill fieldes,
with pleasaunt flowers abound.
The dainty Dames from every place,
doe thither fast resorte,
And Garlandes make of cropped flowers,
of sundry sent and soyte,
In every streete great stirring is,
some quasse and make good cheare,
Some leape, some dance, some sing, some play
some chase the light foote Deare,
Here Orpheus with his pleasaunt Harpe,
there Amphion with his Lute,
Doe make mosse pleasaunt melodie,
and carping cares confute,
The amorous yowthes doe stray the streetes,
and with their Ladies walke.
And some againe doe passe the day,
with passing pleasaunt talke,
So every man to please his minde,
some pastime doth frequent,
To dyne away all drowse dumptes,
and sluggish sloth present.

The Forrest of Fancy.

It chaunced so this time,
that as in bed I lay,
Oppressed sore with painefull pangs,
about the breake of day
I started vp, and forth I walke,
into the fieldes so fayre,
My selfe to solace there at will,
and take the pleasaunt ayre,
The ground that garnisht was with flowers,
did yeld so sweete a smell,
That noysome sauoures none were felt,
It did them all repell,
Then past I forth with stealing steps,
and lookte about me round,
To take a view of enery thing,
wherein I pleasure found.
And by and by from farre me thought,
I seemde a sounde to heare,
which still the further that I past,
more pleasaunt did appeare,
It was so sweete a melody,
that sure I thought some muse,
Or else some other heauenly wight,
did there frequent and vse.
But as I cast mine eye asyde,
on bryanche of willow tree.
A little Robin redbreast then,
there sitting did I see,
And he it was, and none but he.
that did so sweetely sing,
But sure in all my life before,
I neuer harde the thing,
That did so much delight my hart,
or caused me so to ioye,
As did that little Robins song,
that there I hard that day,

The Forrest of Fancies

That did so much delight my harte,
or cause me so to ioye,
As did that little Robins song,
that there I heard that day,
The Poets faine that Orpheus made,
both stones and trees to daunce,
When he vpon his Harpe did play,
They also doe aduance
So muche Arion for his skill,
that when into the seas
he should be cast they said that he,
a Dolphin so did please,
That safe he brought him vnto shore,
when death he did aspeere,
And from all perills perrillous,
did him right well protect,
Mercurius made the hundred eyes,
of Argos all to sleepe,
with playing on an Oten pipe,
his knowledge was so deepe,
yet sure I thinke their harmony,
might not equall be,
with that this little Robin made,
it so delighted me.
May sure I thinke the swales wyne,
may not with him compare,
Nor yet Apollo for his skill,
whose musick was so rare.
Full oftentimes my hart doth wishe,
this pretty bird to haue.
For more than any worldly thing,
the same I still doe craue.
And if my luck might be so good,
this Robin once to gaue,
Then greatly would my ioyes abound,
and hart should feele no paine.

The Forrest of Fancy.

For neuer did I see the thing,
that I so well could lecke,
Therefore about all other things,
to haue the same I seeke.
For collour and for comelinesse,
all bydes he doth surmount,
His flesh as very delicate,
full many men accompt,
God graunt therefore that I may gaine,
this Robin at my will.
Then doe I hope to vse him so,
that he shall carry still.
For rather would I lose my life,
and all thinges else besyde,
Then from my Robin I woulde parte,
at any tyme or tide.

Finis.

The long acquainted Louer writeth to his beloued,
whose grace he desyred.

Like as no fyre doth yeeld so great a heate,
As that which longest lyes in kindling this is sure,
So can no loue so vehemently be and great,
As that which doth the longest time indure,
For why the fyre that by and by doth flame,
Is straight consumed, that none may see the same.

Euene so the loue that on a sodaine growes,
Doth straight wayes passe, and vanish as a shade,
As very well this aunient Diouer the shewes,
whose loue soone colde, and soone away doth fade,
But as a tonne doth still the taste retaine,
Of that which fyrst did in the same remaine,

So I my deare whose loue in tender age,
Dearly taken roote cannot the same suppress,

The Forrest of Fancy.

Or else the griefe thereof by skill assuage,
For I can by no means find redress,
But as your thrall I rest in wofull case,
Expecting still with great desyre some grace.

Oh Lady deare doe not therefore disdaine,
The humble sute of him that lonen you best,
But arme your selfe to shew the lybe againe,
For otherwise you breede his great distress.
Forget not my good will thinke on your friend,
And thus with teares my humble sute I end.

Finis.

Of one Urbina a Virgin vefall, taken in adultery.

Urbina a Virgin vefall in adultery being taken,
With roddes about the cittie was whipped therefore,
And of all her friendes then being forsaken,
Was buried alive, whome none did deplore,
And of the Adulterers that did her fellower,
The one did slay himselfe that present tower,
The other the overseers of the temple then,
Caused to be executed in the market place.
That he might be a warning to all other men,
To teach them the path of vertue to trace.

Finis.

Of one Cianippus, who in his drunkenesse deflowered
his owne daughter ciane.

O Siracuse cianip
Because that he did offer,
His Sacrifice to all the Gods.
And none to Bacchus proffer,
Was stroke with such admittenture,
That meeting in the darke,
His Daughter Ciane, her deflowerde,
but what did follow marke,

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She to the end to understand,
and know who did the deede,
From of his finger plucke his ring,
whereby she saw with speede,
That it had bene her Father deare,
and after when the Citie,
was plagued all for this foule facte,
and that by sentence writte,
Of th'oracle it witten was,
the Authour of the act,
For to be sacrificed vp,
for this foule fylthy fact,
whereas none knew who it should be,
or what did cause the same,
Ciane with afflicted minde,
remembryng it did frame,
Her Fathers death, who being dead
herselfe she also slue,
And on his corpes her corpes she cast,
for every man to see.

Finis.

Of one Celsius Bassus a Carthaginian, who
deceined the Emperour Nero.

Celsius Bassus on a time,
unto king Nero tolde,
That in a Cave within his ground,
was hid great heapes of Golde,
which he (he sayd) supposed to be,
of Didos hiding there,
Unto which wordes he credite gave,
and from that place to heare,
The same, he did full many senn,
the Orators in meane space,

Commended

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Commended Nero saying that,
he stood in Fortunes grace,
And that he was of all the Gods,
beloued and fauourde most,
within whose time such welth was found,
That had so long bene lost,
And hidden in the bowels of
the earth full many a day,
wherefore in hope of new found wealth,
this Emperour made away,
The store he had but in the end
when they were at the place,
whereas this treasure should remaine,
Cesellus made them trace,
From this to that place by and downe,
to seeke the foresaid caue,
And myners many one did seeke,
by skill the same to haue,
If any there should hidden lye,
but laboured all in vaine,
He said some spite had him deceaude,
and did a furie sayne,
But to auoyde the present feare,
and shame that should arise,
He slew himselfe and Nero left
still gaping for his pryse.

Finis.

The Louer veried with long loue ; taking
assuraunce of succour, enduceth his
Lady to receiue him to her
seruice.

FOR as much as euery thing by nature enforceth it selfe
with all diligent industry (so much as it may) to resist
the

The Forrest of Fancy.

the great enormities wherewith it is afflicted, I am now constrained (after long sufferance) to let you understand the ardent desyre which by little and little consumeth me, as may plainly appeare by many manifest tokens, which shewe sufficient testimony of my true intent. And thinke not that I haue bene moued hertvnto at all aduentures, or without some hope and assurance that I haue, the time to obtaine that which by the liberall helpe of your accustomed clemency may bring mee such comfort as shall well content me, assuring my selfe, that from a thing of such excellency as is your seemly selfe (in whom besides your beuiebewty there are assembled so many good graces and heroicall vertues) a man may not expecte any other but a sincere and good inclination to imitate almost in all thinges the customes of amorous humanitye, making him to appeare pittifull in deede and word, and redde to impart his liberall fauour to all those that craue it, and by their good behanour doe duly deserue it. This also yeldeth some satisfactio to my troubled mind, that my words which were of late restrained, haue now found free issue, wherby I requyre helpe at your handes. Whilste I yet feele in my selfe sufficient habillitye to recetue it, assuring you that it will be to late for so fit a benefit, if you delay the time to let me inioy the fortune of your friendly fauour, wherof being very desyrous, I attend your courteous answer, with assured hope that your good pleasure will be to accept me for your humble seruant, that so long as any sparke of lyfe remaineth in mee, haue becomed my selfe to your seruice, and cannot but accounte you for my onely mistresse. Assure your selfe therefore that my lyfe may not long indure, if my doloprous destinye doe denye me the fauour to synde you agreable to my affectionate desyre.

FINIS.

The

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The Louer hauing long time loued a fayre Gentlewoman, at whose handes he had reciued small hope of obtaining his purpose, wrighteth vnto her as followeth.

TO ble any long discourse my bearely beloued Parmenia, in the declaration of my great good will and seruent affection towards you, I compute it but frivolous, seeing I am well assured that you haue long since perceyued, and from time to time made perfect triall of my true intent towards you yet is the hope so vncertain that I haue hitherto receiued frō you, as I cannot assure my self of any further fauour at your handes, then he that hath neuer deserved any at all, and as it is the property of all those that loue faithfully to feare the worst, so doe I many times misdoubt least through my owne euill destiny, or the falsed flattery of some false dissembler, I shal bee deprived of that comfort which doth more content me then the conquest of a whole kingdom: wherefore being greatly grieved with the vncertainie of my present estate, by means of my mirabilitie, that many times I find to be in you, not able any longer to sustain the torment that it putteth me vnto, I haue thought good to write these few words vnto you most humbly beseeching you to dissolue me of this doubt without delay that if I finde not your aunswere agreeable with my besyre I may seeke if I can to suppress the seruente affection that is nowe so deeplye rooted in my harte, as I feare mee I shall hardlye remooue it.

Woe this my good Parmenia, and feare not any inconvenience that may growe thereby.

For, I hope that by granting mee your friendly fauour, you shall haue no cause to repent you of any thing that shall happen vnto you vntill it be because you haue

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have so long lacked the company of so comfortable a companion, by whose meanes with the helpe of God you shal not only be deliuered of your long and grieuous sicknesse, which cannot be otherwise cured, but also leauing the life that now you leade, be rid of all those your malicious Enemies, that with their enuye and euill dealing doe daylye vnderniedly deuise to doe you displeasure, and withall purchase to your selfe so faithfull a friend as for anye aduenture will neuer forsake you, but vsing his dilligence & carefull industry to provide for your maintenance, which neede I hope shall neuer happen vnto you, howe soeuer you esteeme my present state to be, for I know there is nothing so difficult, but the wit of man if wil be with it, may well bring it to passe, comforteing my selfe with this assured hope, that God will neuer suffer them to perishe, that put their trust in him.

Thus muche my good Parmena, I haue thoughte good to wyte vnto you, because I coulde not finde conueniente tyme or mere opportunity to deliuer it vnto you in speech. I pray you consider of it aduisedly, that I may knowe your resolute aunswere therein. And so fare you well.

The Louer being promised a resolute aunswere to that he desyred, wrighteth to his beloued Mistresse, in this manner, wherein he perswadeth her, to pittie his passions.

The poore miserable wretch that hath long continued in Captiuitie, and knoweth not what shall become of him cannot be more troubled in mynde, or tossed with more inrolerable tormentes to increase his calamity then I am at this present, for feare to finde your aunswere contrarye to my expectation. And surely were it not that I knowe your clemency to be such, as cannot with crueltye countermaile the courtesie of so faithfull a friend, as I to my smal power haue alwayes shewed my selfe to be towards you, I would

The Forrest of Fancy.

Should long since rather haue bereaued my lyfe to prooue
my loyal tie, then by attending the dreadfull sentence of my
condemnation, be adiudged to dye without deserue, by her
whose welfare I haue preferred, before all worldly Treas-
ure.

The law of nature bindeth you to bend most to him that
loueth you best, and bydeth moste sorrowe for your sake.
Justice also iniopneth you to render to euery one his right
which if you performe accordingly, as you must needes do
if you desyre to be demed worthy of the estimation which
belongeth to such a one as you are, I doubt not but I shall
receiue from you that comfort which I haue long tyme co-
nited, I meane your friendlye fauour and franke consente
in loue, to knit with me the knot of perpetuall amitye, as
with him that for his loyall loue, hath aboue all other best
deserued it, and despyeth rather to dy, then liue and lack it.

The tragedy of Meliager, sonne to Oeneus King
of Calcedonia.

PArthaons sonne, Oeneus King
of calcedonia lande,
To all the Gods did institute,
and offer with his hande,
His sacrifice saue onely to
Diana dyre, whome he
For hatred or forgetfulnes
remitted, wherewith shee
Full greatly greende, a huge great Boze,
did send to waste the lande,
That made much spoye in many a place,
and no man might withstand,
Untill Oeneus at the last,
in mind oppress with griefe,
A generall hunt ordeyned had,
whercof his sonne was cheefe.

A. f.

That

The Forrest of Fancy,

That Meliager hight, with whome,
besides his vnckles swayne,
That Ioxeus and Plexippus hight,
there went as bookes shew plaine,
A Virgin saye the Daugther,
of Iasius great of Faune,
Through all Arcadia where he raignde,
Atlanta was her name,
who with a stroke she gaue that Boze,
Did make him fyrst to bleede,
And therefore when the Boze was slaine,
to recompence that deede,
To her the head and humbles both
did Meliager giue.
which soone from her his vnckles tooke.
so much it did them greene.
Wherewith Meliager soze displeasde,
did therefore slay them both,
Which when his mother Althea knew,
she waring wondrous wroth,
Into the fyre the brand did cast,
whereon his lyfe depended,
Which being wasted cleane away.
then straight his life it ended,
For whose dicease his Sisters all,
full lamentably mourned,
Till they at last amidst their wo,
to Turkey Hennes were turned.

Lennoy.

These foresayde thinges who noteth well,
to fyre them fast in wynde,
He shall not fayle for his anaple,
good fruite therein to fynde.
Fyrst by Oeneus are we taught,
at no time to neglect,

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The duty which we owe to God;
but chiefly haue respect,
To honour him, and laude his name,
that leddeth lyfe to all,
which erreth contraines, who lifts vs vp,
and likewise lets vs fall,
whome Seas obey, whome heauens adore
and all thinges else besyde,
who sees and knowes our secret thoughtes,
though we the same would hyde,
And as he is a God moste iust,
so iustly will he render,
His grace vnto the penitent,
although a great offender,
Deseruing death most damnable,
so mercifull is he.
Thas as he saith, he doth not seeke,
a sinners death to see,
For when from depth of hart we will,
our hainous crimes confesse,
And craue forgiveness at his handes,
we soone shall finde redresse,
But when no mendment he perceiues,
nor warninges to preuayle,
Then with his mighty hand he doth,
vs wicked wight as assaile,
And vs and all our progeny,
vnto the death pursues,
Then praise we God, and vnto him,
all reuerence let vs vse,
And you O Captaines that doe guyde,
and gouerne Armies great,
Ye Magistrates and Rulers all,
that are with pryde replete,
Leaue of lyke lawlesse Lordes to liue,
Of Meliager learne,

The Forrest of Fancy,

To yeld to ech his due desert,
as reason shall disearne,
who merrits golden gaine to get,
foz worthy woꝝkes committed,
In countreyes cause let his reward,
in no wise be remitted,
So shall you surely reape renoune,
and purchase peoples loue,
Yea valyaunt minds to ballyaunt actes,
thereby you soone shall mone,
you enuious sozte at prosperous state,
of men that doe repine,
That grutch to see another gaine,
with most mallicious eyne,
Forsake that foule infyrmitie,
that hurt with vertue heale,
which beareth euery vaine of you,
foz grace to God appeale.
Else shall confusyon come to you,
and that which you did craue,
To light on others that be sure,
your selues alone shall haue,
By Meliager murderers may
a good example see,
To cause them shun to seeke their blood,
with whome they greued be.
Least that the same to heauenly Ioue,
from earth do vengeance crye.
and so their soules be damnd in hell,
when corpes in graue doe lye,
Foz God so much a murderer hates,
that he be wꝛiuce oꝝ peare,
yet blood craues blood, and vnto God
the Begger is as deare
In all respectes, as is the King,
that rules in regall raigne,

The Forrest of Fancy.

Who murdereth shall be murdered,
who slayeth shall be slaine,
What measure men to others meate,
with that they shall againe,
Be measured this finde we true,
by tryall euery day,
Now last of all let sisters learne,
where vertue beares cheefe sway,
To loue their bretheren feruently,
as nature doth requyre,
So shall they purchase praise of all,
that know their good desyre.

Finis.

A letter written by one to a ritche Widdow,
wherein vsing earnest perswasions he solia
citeth his sute, and craueth
to be accepted.



Like as the Captaine maye well bee counted a
Coward, and vnworthy of victorie, that for a
small discomfiture at the fyrst encounter will be
cleane discouraged, so may he bee dermed but a
dissembling Louer, that for one denyall will bee dza one
cleane awaye, neither doth he deserue to reape so greate a
commoditie, as the consent of her that he loueth maye
bring vnto him.

But my loue being grounded vpon good occasions, and
settled on so sure a foundation, as it cannot be easily ouer-
whelmed, so long as any sparke of lyfe abydeth in my bo-
dy, it were great crueltie to contemne me, or carelesly to
cast me of, without rendring me a recompence worthy my
deseruing, which I am fully perswaded that your curteous
condicion cannot consent vnto, and therefore am the more
inboldened once againe to trouble you with my Letters.
And although you wordes haue hitherto giuen mee small

The Forrest of Fancy.

hope of any further fauour then I haue already found, yet am I so blinded with affection, as I cannot but still perseuer in the same.

It pleased you at our last conference amongst other thinges, to enqvyze of my estate, which being in deede very simple, in comparison of that which it hath pleased God to call you vnto, If I shoulde haue made it better then it was, when you shoulde afterwarde haue proued the contrarye, you mighte well haue deemed mee a Dissembler, and worthy of greate blame, for dealing so dubiously with you, and therefore I soughte rather to abase then better my selfe, as I trust youre seemely selfe haue well perceiued.

yet would I not haue you thinke me so simple, but that I shall be able alwayes to get an honest lining to maineyntayne me withall, although I had none other helpes then that which God hath giuen me by nature, much more then being matched with such a one as you are, whose wealth is better knowne to others, then wished of mee for myne owne priuate profite.

For as I knowe my selfe altogether vntoworthy of so great a benefite, so must I needes acknowledge the fauoure that I haue already found at your handes, farre to exceede my deseries.

And yet, if you were priue to my purposes and knew my true intent, and the great god will and unfayned affection that youre clemencye constrayneth mee to beare vnto you, I doubt not but I shoulde fynde that friendly fauour at your handes, that otherwise were vnmete for one of my degree.

But peraduenture, because I am a yong manne, and haue but little to take vnto, you thinke I woulde if I were once possessed of you, seeke only to liue vppon that which you haue, and not being carefull for your commoditye, nor respecting your person as I oughte to doe, woulde

The Forrest of Fancie.

would carelesly consume your substance, and when nothing remaineth to maintaine my ryots, woulde leaue you to to shifte for your selfe, (as many byld barlets doe at this day the moze is the pittie) But they be such as haue in them neither honestye nor wisdom, or will doe well.

And if you so conceiue of me (as I hope you do not,) how farre this imagination differeth from my good meaning, God and mine owne conscience onely knoweth, I beseech you therefore suffer no such thoughtes to linke into youre minde, for if my deedes bee sounde anye thing differente from my wordes, I wish that the earth may gape and swallow me vp, or fyre from heauen consume me,

Diuers are the reasons that induce me thus earnestlye to sollicite my sure vnto you.

First your personage, which pleaseth me moze then anye that euer I sawe.

Secondly, your curteous conditions, vertues, and wisdom, being such, as would well content anye honeste and well minded man, though the rest were wanting.

Thirdly, your yeares which being at the full perfection, neither to yong a wanton, or to olde a Dotarde, but one that are both hable for your experieuce, to minisster good counsell to suche an vnskillfull yong man as I am, and also sufficiently satisfye me in all other thinges requisite for my yong yeares.

Fourthly, your wealth to supplie my wante, whiche being so well ordred as I assure you it should be, if I inioyed it, it might not onely be conserued, but also increased to the great commoditie and comfozte of vs both.

These be the causes that incourage mee so effectually to prosecute my purpose, wherein if I finde you fauourable as I hope I shall, I will not onely be headdy to persourne my promyses in all respectes,
but

The Forrest of Fancy.

but also would be moste humbly at your commaundment,
as your moste bounden and obedient seruaunt,

Finis.

The fyrst Letter written to the same widdowe, extolling
her vertues, which he allegeth to be the cause of
his ardent affection, he requyreth ma-
riage of her.



The commendable qualities together wyth
the incomparable curtesy that I haue hearde
and partly seene to be in you hath in encoura-
ged me thus boldly to presume to present you
with my disordered Letters, thereby to lette
you vnderstand the hartty good will and vnfained affecti-
on which I haue long tyme borne vnto you though feare
to offend you haue caused me hitherto to conceale it, hoping
that although my degree be farre inferiour to yours, in e-
uery respect, yet will you not scoyne my curtesy, or requite
my good will with crueltye.

My request is reasonable, and my desyres not dishonest
and therefore deserue the rather to be fauoured, marriage
is the marke I shooke at, which is a holy thing, and ordey-
ned by God, from the beginning.

And although I craue to be matched with you, yet if I
might finde the fauour at your handes to be so accepted,
considering our inequallity, and not despying the priue-
ledge which pertemeth to those that inioye their equals,
to wete, obediēce in the wife toward her husband, I wold
refer my self wholly vnto your discretion, and yeild you the
preheminance in al things as reason willeth, & being but
as it were your steward, woulde discharge you of those
weighbry and troublesome affayres, that are incidēt to your
calling.

As for my qualities and condicions what they are, I
will leaue to the report of others. But in deede my welch
is

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is verie small, yet is that wante so supplied with good will, as I hope you shoulde haue no cause to repent you of the choise of so base a personage, but rather reioyce that it was your losse, to light on so louing a friend, For I am sure that the man liueth not on earth at this hower, that would more esteeme, loue and cherrish you then I would do, & if it would please you once to make triall of me, I hope you should finde me in all things according to your hartes desyre, which considered, I doubt not but I shall finde you ready to relceue me, by recompensing my good will with the lyke, with which hope I will comfote my selfe, till I heare the contrary, and so crating pardons for my boldnesse, I commit you to God.

A yong Gentlewoman wrighteth this for aunswere to a Gentlemans Letter, that craued her loue, and exhorteth her to keepe promise with him, wherein excusing her selfe, by her ouer yong yeres, and his vnhabillitye, she prayeth him to cease of his sute,

Your Leeters sp: I haue receined,
and pondzing well the same,
Haue now preparde my selfe thereto,
an aunswere fit to frame,
Though in your w:it you come and rauge,
aboute the bush a while,
And vse huge heapes of needelesse wordes,
my sentes to begyle.
I see you seeke, but all in vaine,
to winne me to your wiffe,
which I may not vouchsafe to graunt,
for feare of further strepse.
Because it is not in my power,
to doe it, though my will,

The Forrest of Fancy.

were wholly bent thereto: but in
their handes whose prudent skill,
And wisdom great is such,
as knowing what for me,
Most meetest is, to your demaund
will neuer once agree,
And as their care is very great
to doe me good, so I
(As duety binds) in all things will,
my selfe to them apply.
your welch likewise is very small,
as you your selfe confesse,
And mine not great, and am right sure,
it would be so much lesse,
If following fancies flattering words,
or fained vowes, I should
Contrary doe to friendes desire,
and that which worst I would,
Their love and fauour lose thereby,
therefore cease of your sute,
Consent your selfe with reasons rule,
and doe no blame impute
To me at all, whose tender age,
ne wit ne welch will serue,
To take in hand so great a charge,
but I therein should swerne.
And for that cause I doe not mynde
to match with any one,
Vntill I be of riper yeares,
nor promise plight to none,
yet when I doe, I will apply
my selfe in all I may,
To choose a wise and prudent mate,
That walkes in vertues way:
providing therewithall,
that welch doe neuer want,

Sufficient.

The Forrest of Fancy.

sufficient alwayes to maintaine,
 the fruite of such a plant:
 For whereas lining lacking is,
 to maintaine such estate,
 Their perfect loue will soone peruert,
 to cruell cancred hate,
 And whereas rooted rancour reignes,
 all chinges to ruine runne,
 yea vertue chaunge to vice most vile,
 decay they cannot shunne
 That shall be matched so, wherefore,
 doth wisdom alwayes will,
 In time conueniente bee to take,
 if we will shunne such ill,
 But though I know right well, the life
 of many men to be,
 with flattering wordes, and fyled phrase,
 as did Eneas be,
 To Dido, and false Demophon
 to Phillis faire his friend,
 For to deceiue vs silly soules,
 that neuer hurt pretend,
 But credite all their cloked craft,
 that beares a simple shoe,
 Till we be caught in Cupids snare,
 so fast, that sooth to goe
 we haue not power, and then behind
 they leane vs in the lash,
 A iust reward no doubt for such,
 as will be ouer rash
 In that they take in hand, yet I,
 nor iudging so of you,
 But thinking that your loue profess
 both perfect is and true,
 Doe peeble you thanks therefore,
 and humbly pardon craue,

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For that I may not giue consent,
to that you seeke to haue.
The cause and reasons tolde before,
that doe in deede deteine me,
Perswading still the contrary,
at all times doe restraine me,
As for the promise which so much,
you vrge me for to keepe,
Assuring me by breache thereof,
to runne in daunger deepe,
No promise haue I made, whereon
you may so much take holde,
I am right sure, but that I may,
to breake the same be holde,
But if I had, yet enery one
would indge you farre vntwise,
To challenge any at my handes,
in whome it nothing lyes
For to performe the same, sith of
my selfe nothing I haue,
Nor wit to know what thing is ill,
or what is good to crane.
And therefore ayming verie wyse,
and as one wanting sight,
Doth throw his staffe, so doe you shoote,
but shall not hit the whight,
And therefore now to make an ende,
I humbly you requyre,
No more to mooue me in such sort,
but bydeling your desyre,
And pondzing rightly this Exple,
which here to you I make,
To ferde no more on foolish hope,
But this for annswere take.

Finis,

A.B.

The Forrest of Fancy.

A. B. wrighting to his sister C. B. admonisheth her of such things as he fyndeth amisse in her, and instructeth her how she should behaue herself to preserue her good name.



Welbeloued Sister, for as much as both nature and conscience bindeth me to be carefull for your commodity I haue thought good (as a friend) to admonishe you of such things as I finde amisse in you, which I praye you take in good part, and iudge none euill in me for the same, for I protest vnto you before God, that it is not of any enuie or mallice that I beare vnto you, but of meere good will, and to discharge my duty both towards God, and you.

I see and heare and am sorry to vnderstande, what reportes are dayly rayled against you, for that you keepe companye, and make your selfe acquainted with so many lewde disposed persons as you doe.

In dede it is a great presumption of an euill lyfe to be conuersaunt with those that be euill, for common lyfe will to lyke.

Veraduenture you thinke it a goodly grace, and greatly to your commendation, with friendly lookes, and courteous trerainements to draw men vnto you, but it is not so, and surely if you did consider the issue that it hath, and the inconuenience that groweth thereby, you woulde rather shut your selfe vp in some secrete chamber, and lyue a solitary lyfe for euer, then set to the shew so often as you doe, for trust to this, and surely you shall find it most true, that as the Fowler with his sayned notes, bringeth the the byrdes to his net, so those subtil serpentes, whose mindes are alwayes bent to mischief, will with their flattering speeches, and false fained ferches, allure you to theire iudicious lustes, if they can.

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But lend no care vnto them, nor giue no credit vnto their words, for he that amongst them maketh the greatest show of good will, will bee the man that shal soonest deceiue you.

It is not any honest loue that they intend, but their desire is to despoyle you of that which is the Jewell, whereto in you oughte cheefelye to ioye, wherof if they sayle, they will then rayse the moste vilde and flaunderous reportes against you that can be deuysed, and will not sticke to repute their pleasure of you, in euery place wher they come, to your great reproch and infamy, although it be neuer so false that they sayne, yet the report thereof, entering into the eares of the common sort, (that are fadde to heliue leasings, then credite the verity,) they wil some imagine it to be true, and blaz it abrode for a certaintye, in to the eares of all men, and so to bere by good gouernment you might haue gotten great commendation, through this your disordered liberty, you grow in great defamacion. I can then to lend care to the lewde perswasions of those corrupt Caterpillers, be not in any wise conuersant with them, but flye from them, as from a most pestilent euill, so shall you preserve your good name vnspotted and giue no occasion to be thought of, which in my poore opinion, will be more beneficiall to your selfe, and lesse hurtfull to others, then by following your former course it would be, and so fare you well.

The lamentable complaint of a louer, who notwithstanding his diuerse dangerous trauailes, and continual sorrow sustained, could fynd no fauor at all at her hands that was the causer of his calamity, but cruell content, to counterwayle his curtsy,

Of many tormentes, strange and tedious toyles,
That grisly ghoules in Limbo lake sustaine,
Of fearful facts, and bloody beastly wailes,
That there are hide, the pleasant Portes layne,
As how that Phlegias to his treble paine,
Upon a turning wheele is fiersely,
which

The Forrest of Fancy.

which makes him lothe his lyfe, that long doth last,

How Siliphus doth rowle the restlesse stone,
which to the top attained, turnes back againe,
How silly titius making messful mone,
Unto a Rock fast tyde, doth stil sustaine
The grying greefes that rancuring byrds constraime,
who on his entrailes dayly feebe their fill,
And yet he lynes, to trye these tormentes still.

How tandalus amidst the streame that standes,
Up to the chin, is like for mouth to dye,
And goodly Apples, almost in his hand,
with hunger nipt, in extreame payne doth lye,
How Danaus daughters doe themselves apply,
with pailles that bottomes want, a tubbe to fill,
That wanteth bottome to, which passeth skill.

But all their paines may not compared be,
To that which I doe euery hower abyde,
For all at once assembled are in me,
I here is no torment that I haue not tryde,
To me the heaucns haue happy haps denyde,
The blannets all appointed me by fate,
to liue and leade my life in lothsome state,

All day my minde with fancies send is franght,
which greatly wastes my witte and breakes my braine
To no effect at all, when sleepe hath caught
Some holde of me at night, alas my paine
Browes greater farre, for dreadfull dreames restrain
My quiet rest, all my rest is mone to me,
All pleasure paine, I loth the light to see.

Of all the wightes that euer liue in lone,
was neuer none, whose luck was lyke to myne,
Thongh

The Forrest of Fancy.

though griefe them gript, though paine they long did piewe
yet did they gaine their wished will in syne,
Their Ladies liking did to loue inclyne,
And they inioyde their ioy and hartes delight,
As wished will their wretched woe to quight.

Though pastor Paris past the surging Seas,
And many perills more for Hellens sake,
yet he at last his heauy hart to ease,
Enioyde her loue, and rest her from her make,
Which deepe the Greekes so greuousely did take,
As Troy therefore they did to ruine bring,
The fittest fruite that of such loue doth spring.

When Pegasus had with tedious toyle distress,
The Monster huge that laboured to denout,
Andromada, that on a Rock did rest
Fast bound with chaines, expecting euery hower,
For a deadly death, he croppt the costly flower,
Which fancy forst him seeke, with such annoy,
And after led his life in lasting ioy.

And many more such lyke alleage I coulde,
Who after paine did purchase their desire,
I might bring in Naisagio if I would,
Hippomanes that scryde in Cupids fyre,
And Pelops to it cause did so requyre,
But these will serue my saying true to trye,
That none for loue hath led such lyfe as I.

For I alas of all men most accurst,
Haue spent much time with care and busy cure,
And when I thought me best, my hap was worst,
When safe I seemde, then late I most vnure,
Not deadly dole that I did long indure,
Nor trickling teares, nor sighes nor lues could serue,
So

The Forrest of Fancy.

To purchase that which I doe well deserve.

When as I glaunce my glaring eyes on her,
She bendes her lookes vpon some other thing,
When as I would with wordes my love preferre,
Then angry she away from me doth sling,
Saying take heede, the Siren now doth sing,
And when with pen my passions I depaint,
She rentes my wit, and scornes my pittious plaint.

If messengers I send with her to treat,
And pleade my cause as they can best deuise,
Their wordes to set her haughty hart in heate,
Who causelesse still doth me so much despise,
As when she heares me name, her blood doth rise,
An when my friends doe her present with aught,
She fets and fumes as one with fury fraught.

Through places scarcely knowne, both day and night,
Through wods, through groves, & marish grounds I rode
Through foyles, fennes and furrowes voyde of light,
yea ouer hilly hills where I abode,
Full many bites blastes before I rode
The trustlesse trace where this Tiger sound,
Whose sturllish deedes both cause my cares abound.

Then tusted be the howter and eake the daye,
Wherein I did to her my lozney frame,
I would I had bene murdered by the waye,
Before I came to see that cruell Dame,
Who for good will doth yield me bitter blame,
For then the death had me deprinde of all,
The daungers dye, wherein I dayly fall,

But all to late to thinke the stable dye,
Which shee to thine, so saith shee is neuer be able,

The Forrest of Fancy,

I wisely should haue thought of this before
I did attempt her bewty to beholde,
Who hath my heauy hart so hard in holde,
As needes I must both loue and serue her still,
Though she me lothe, and seeke my blood to spill.

You yonglinges all, where euer that you be,
That subiect are vnto the lawes of loue,
Take hede in time, be wofely warn'd by me,
On whome you looke, least looks that liking moue,
Engendring loue, make you more paines to proue,
Then I poore wretch, that dayly wish to dye,
And yet doe live, these tormentes strange to trye.

Finis.

A yong man being in loue with a sayre Gentlewoman,
that was but his equall, desyreth to be accep-
ted for her husband.

The passions extreme which for your sake I haue long
sustained, being now through continuance of tyme, so
wonderfully augmented and increased, that being no lon-
ger able to tollerate the extreme paine thereof, I am com-
pelled and perforce constrained in most humble wise to craue
grace at your handes, which is the onely meane whereby
I may be cured of this most greuous and insupportable
mallady: Refuse not therefore I pray you this my petiti-
on, which is both honest and reasonable let not my good
will be required with disdain, nor my curtesie with crueltie,
for that were a point boyde of all humantye, and far
different from all maydenlike modestie: Dido Queene of
Carthage loued Eneas a stranger and a banished man,
Euphinia Daughter to the King, and heire to the crowne
of the Kingdome of Corinth, matched herselfe with Acha-
risto her fathers bondman. The Dutchesse of Malsie chose
for

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for her husbande, her seruante Vlrice. And Venus also, if we may giue credite to the fictions of poets, who for her surpassing bewty was canoized a Goddess, refused not to be the wife of lame Vulcanus.

Much lesse neede you then, that are mortal, and but of a meane progenye in comparison of the worst of all those princely Dames before repeated, to thinke I come of mee that am no Stranger, but your owne native countreyman, no wandring erile, but a true and faithfull Subiect, continuing in the countrey where I was first borne and fostered, neither seruant to you, nor slave to any other, but utterly free from the yoke of seruitude and bondage, vntill such time as by contemplating the bright beames of yone surpassing bewty, my poore hart was so captinated, that I was constrained to commit my selfe wholly vnto your clemency, nor yet so monstrous and mishapen a creature, whereby you might haue iuste occasion to mislike of mee, but God I giue him thanks for it, as plentifully enriched with the giftes of nature, as another man.

All which being well and aduisedly of you considered, I am perswaded and fullie resolued in my cogitation, that you will not refuse my gentle offer, or disdain to electe and accepte me for your lopall loue, and lawfull husband, who (aboue all other earthly Creatures) am moste desyrous for rearme of lyfe to be lincked with you in league of perfecte loue, and amity.

Thus hoping that by meanes of youre bountifull benignitie, and accustomed clemencye, I shall not sayle to synde all thinges correspondent, and according to my hartes desyre, I leane to trouble you any further for this time.

And so fare you
well.

Finis.

N.ij.

Being

The Forrest of Fancy,

C.D. Being enamored of a fayre and vertuous yong Gentlewoman he craueth speedy comfort.

Dearely beloned, withoute whose grace and good will, nothing seemeth sweete or pleasaunt vnto me, no nor to enioy my lyfe, vnlesse I may therewith obtayn thy loue which my hart aboue all thinges terrestiall doth chieflye conet and desyre.

Loue onely hath caused me to wright vnto you, your surpassing bewty hath perforce procured me to loue you, and your rare and singuler vertues haue chiefly kindled my affection towards you, which affection doth so greatly abound in me, and so incessantly tormente my poore captiue carcass, that if you in whome it onely resteth to redresse the same doe not speedily render some pleasant and precious portion, to allwage the intollerable anguish of this my moste greivous and painefull mallady, my lyfe is like to be put in great perrill thereby.

The plant whilst it is yet yong and tender may be easily cut downe. but if it be let alone vntouched, it will in time grow so great, as with much labour it shall be almost impossible to to roote it out, but that some smal sprigs that still abyde behinde in the bowels of the earth which maye after ward receiue againe the former force, and accustomed greatnesse.

The ware whilst it is warme, may be easily reduced into what forme or fashion that a man will, but being let alone till it be colde, it wareth so harde and brittle, that it wil sooner breake, then be brought to any perfect proportion, or vniiformitye.

So likewise is it in loue, for the lover that loneth saythfully, being dayly fedde with fayre wordes, if he doe not in short time obtaine the full effect of his desyre, the flame already kindled in his brest, will in the ende waxe so wonderfull great, as all the water in riber and Nylus, shall not suffice

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suffice to quench the same, untill the body of the poore miserable louer, be dissolved into dust.

Consider therefore I beseech you of my sorrowful state, way my good wil and faithfull affection towards you, ponder my pittious plaints, and deny not grace to him that loveth you more dearelye then his owne proper lyfe, who to obtaine your love would not feare to passe the perrillous wanes of unhappy Helispont, but as a faithfull Leander to please my beloved Hero, would be ready to attempte it how dangerous soever the adventure were.

Refuse not then this my reasonable request, seeing that by yielding thereunto, you can no way be prejudiced, or in any wise hindred, and yet by denying it, shall put my life in great perill, purchase your selfe an euill reporte, and bee of all men accounted for cruell.

Thus hoping that your pittifull hart will, through this my most humble submission, be moued to take pittie and compassion vpon my sorrowfull state, I doe for this tyme commit you to the tuition of the Almighty, whome I pray will so protect you.

Finis.

The Lower perceiuing the love of his beloved mistresse, not to be so perfect as before time it had bene,

wrighteth vnto her as follo-

weth.

BEing of late my dearely beloved mistresse, by meanes of your comely personage adorned and garnished with so many good giftes of nature, allured or rather procured to love you, and finding no motion or token of disdainfullnesse to appeare in you, but that rather as it seemed to me, you burned with the lyke flame, and had as firmly fixed your fancy vpon me, as I was fully determined for to reame of lyfe to love you.

But alas, at this present, to my great grieve and conty-

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nuall variation both of mynde and body, I proue the contrary.

For now your mynde, vpon what occasion I knowe not, is cleane altered on a sodaine, so that in steede of friendly lookes I finde a frowning countinaunte, and in steede of the gentle wordes, and curteous communication which befoze you vled with me, I haue nowe nothing else but froward and vntriendly aunsweres, vngratesull wordes and priny paysoned nippes, which seemeth to mee farre more bitter then gall, so is my good will requested with disdain, and my curtesy with vkindnesse.

Oh who would thinke that in one indued with so many excellent vertues as you are, there shoulde bee abiding so foule a vice as is ingratitude, who woulde iudge that in so comly a body, there should remain so vnconstant a hart, what haue I done that misliketh you? wherein haue I offended you? whereby haue I deserued this great discourtesy at your handes? Are you intrapped with the loue of any other? hath anye one hadde our loue in suspicion, haue you at any time bene vpbayded with the same, or else hath some mallicious person practised by slaunderous reportes to raise reproch vpon me in my absence, or brekerd any euill wordes against me, thinking thereby to hinder our loue, and cause you to conceiue some euill opinyon of me.

If it be so, or howsoeuer it be, I pray you let me haue intelligence, and befoze the truth of the matter be thowolpe tryde, to the great shame that shall repozte it (as I hope it will fall out in the end, when my aunswere is harde,) condemne me not without desert, soz certainelye to my knowledge, I neuer yet did any thing wherewith you shoulde be offended, neither haue I offered any occasion whereby you might be iustly moued to thinke euill of me, if I haue it was vntwittingly, and being hartly sorrye soz the same, I doe moste humbley crane pardon at your handes.

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Great is the love I beare unto you, and so greivous is the wound that I haue receiued thereby, that if you, who are the iewel of my ioye, preseruer of my health, and the very lengthner of my lingering lyfe, do not minister some comfortable consarie, or pleasaunt potion, to mitigate the intollecable torment of my moste mischievous maldyde, I am not able long to abyde it, and therefore I moste humbly beseeche you to haue good regard to my sorrowfull state, and loeing I am so spynely bent, for teareme of lyfe, to love you above all other, cast cleane from your all disdainefullnesse, and render mee lyke love againe, on your part.

For thereby you shall purchase to your selfe so faythful a friend, as will alwayes continue moste constant.

And to lette it be for me to make any plainer declaration of my desyre, for I am certaine that my good meaning is already well knowne unto you, but this I say, and I take God to witnesse, I speake it vnsayneble, that the woman lieth not on the earth at this hower, which I coulde so well like of, as I doe of you, or with whome I had rather matche my selfe, so greatly haue I bene affectioned unto you, even from the verpe firste hower that I behelde you, untill this presente time, and therefore committing my selfe into your hands, in whome it onely resteth to redresse my sorowes, and comforte

my carefull hart in hope to receiue such answer from you, as shalbe gret.

Up to my contentation I leane to trouble you any further.

ther for this tyme.

Finis.

A

The Forrest of Fancy.

A Louer being doubtfull of the good will of his Ladye,
 and by meanes of the mutabilitie that many times
 he founde to be in her, craueth
 more assurance at her
 handes.



How great good will I haue long time borne
 you, my most beloued Parmenia, both by my
 wordes and deedes you haue plainly perceiued
 and albeit that you haue diuers times in plain
 termes professed the like vnto me, yet haue I to my greefe
 found you so variable in all your actions as I knowe not
 howe to conceiue of you. I pray you deale with me as a friend; serue me not with
 fayre wordes, unless deedes doe followe accordingly, pro-
 mise no more then you minde to performe, geue mee not
 hope to put me afterwarde in dispaire, nor receiue me in
 to your fauour, and afterwarde reiect me, for surely in so
 doing, you shall not onely deceiue me, but also greatly de-
 fame your selfe, when your double dealing shalbe knowne
 to others. If you can loue me, then without any exceptions con-
 sent to take me for him whome you determine to loue, and
 liue withall for euer.

If you like not of me, then answer it directlie, that I
 may know what to trust vnto; and so by restraining your
 companie, proue to represse my towe affection, which is so
 firmelie fixed vpon you, as I feare me I shall hardelie re-
 proue it.

Faine would I more often frequente youre companie,
 but fearing to purchase your displeasure, and wishing ra-
 ther to suffer my selfe the greatest sorrow that may be sus-
 tained, then you by any meanes should abide any blame at
 all for my sake I haue hitherto restrained my desire with
 the rule of reason, and satisfied my selfe often times with
 the

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the onely sight of the place where you frequent, as if your selfe had bene present with me, such is the force of affection, but yet desyring rather to haue it so in derde, then to deme it so, to the end I may haue conference with you, for uerse occasyons.

I moste hartely pray you let me either vnderstand your minde by wryting or else deuise some meanes that I may haue accesse vnto you to talke with you in proper person till which time I shall neuer take rest. but bee continuallye troubled with a thousand imaginations.

Thus wishing you as well to fare, as your hart would desyre, I commit you to the tuition of the Almighty whom I pray still to protecte you.

Finis.

The Auctour writing to his sister that was towardes marriage, teacheth how to make choise of a husbnd
and howe to behaue her selfe beeing
a Wyfe.

Dearely beloued Sister, vnderstanding that you are disposed to enter into the blessed state of Matrimony, but with whome I know not, and remembryng the sage sentence of that wise Emperour Marcus Aurelius, that the greatest reward which one friend may imparte to an other is to succour him with good counsell, knowing also that there is nothing wherein counsell is moze requisite then in marriages, for that whosoener falleth in the perilles thereof can finde no remedy for it, withoute farre greater perill, I haue thought good, as far as my weake wit, and slender skill can serue me, to shewe you my simple opinion therein.

Like as fyre my welbeloued Sister, whiche lieth long in kindling, preibeth farre greater heate then that whiche by and by taketh flame, so loue whiche hath had long continu-

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aunce is of muche more force then that whiche groweth vpon the sodain, for as fyre that flameth at þe first blowing is but as a flash that by and by vanisheth, so is the loue which groweth on the sodain like vnto a shadow y whilst the sonne shineth, sheweth plain and perfitt to the sight of euery man, but when it is darkened, cannot be discerned at all. So are there some men of so lewde a condicion that so long as her bewty abydeth, to whome they pprofesse good wil, her wealth not deminished and her continuance seemeth chearefull, they continue their loue, but if the contrary happen, then by and by their loue wareth colde, for if her bewtie by sicknesse be abated, her wealth through anye casualtie deminished, or her chearefull continuance by sorrow changed to the contrary, then forgetting her vertues which stil remain perfect, they are cleane changed to a nother likenesse, their swete meliferous words, become as bitter as wormwood, their seeking plain intliking, & their great loue disdaine. This is the fruct of such sodaine loue, this is the best commoditye that may thereby bee reaped, for this we see by experience, that the fruct which is soonest ripe, is soonest rotten, and the fyre whiche is soonest kindled, is soonest quenched, and so likewise is the hottest loue soonest cold. wherfore I pray you and friendly aduise you, in anye wise to take good deliberation in the choise of your husbnde, trye him thorowlye, before you trust him, that shall make you anye offer of his loue.

And though his outwarde behauiour seme honest, though his poffers be large, his perswasions greate, and his person please you neuer so well, yet till you haue well considered of the matter and consulted with youre friendes, who will neyther aduise you to doe anye thing that is hurtfull, nor perswade you from that whiche maye be profitable vnto you, yet giue not your consent in anye wyse to their flattering intsementes.

For as the Fowler with his lained Potes deceiues the salpe byzdes, and bynges them to their bane, so be there some

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Some that vnder a fayre shew of sayned friendshippe, seeke by all meanes possible to corrupte the myndes of honeste maydens, and intice them to folly, which they shall hardly withstand, if they lend care to their lewde language. But were it so that you shoulde lighte vppon one that indeede loued you dearelye, and ment to deale plainly and honestly with you, if you haue not respecte as well to other matters as to that, it wil in the end redound to your great discomfort, for although in the beginning, few marriages seeme vnpleasent, yet being made only for lone without further aduiselement they cannot chuse but haue a sadde and sozrowful ending: and therfore I would aduise you to chuse such a one as should not only be wise & welthy, but also well inclined welthy to maintaine you, according to your desyre, & his degree, wise to gouern those goods that God hath sent him, with reason & discretion, and of a good conuersion to the intent that he may not onely order you as he ought to do, but also bring vp his famely vertuously and in the feare of God for so shall God blesse him the better, and al his actions shal haue a good & prosperous end, whereas if he be vicious, & of a lewd disposition, his inferiours following his example, wil be the like, for such husband such wife, such father, such childre, & such maisters such seruants, so is it commonly seene: & so were he neuer so subtile witted or indued with neuer so great abundance, one way or other al wold quickly go to wrack, & come to nothing, & for as much as the welth of y husband doth chiefly deped vpon the good behaviour of his wife, in y disposing of his household affairs, I wold aduise you to be careful in all honest order to conserue & increse y which your husband shall get, & not to spend superfluously vpon such trifles & toys as are but spurs to prouoke pride, which is the pathway to perdition, whercof the wife (being the cheefest member of her husbandes body,) shall bee the sytle that shall feelee the smart of it, when exchanging her gorgeous garments a poze patched cote, her fine delicate dishes for such scraps

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as she can get for Gods sake, her soft featherbeds, and beds of downe, for a Baller of straw, her gorgeous buildings, for a lilly sheepe cote, or such like, to be brought to that extremity, that she shall rather wish to dye then live in that miserable estate, when having bene a mistresse of manye servauntes in her youth, she shall her selfe in her olde age, be faine to be a slave and servaunt to such as sometime she could commaund, for it is no doubt, a right miserable and wretched state, a torment intollerable, and a greefe in explicable. after so great plenty, to feele such extreame penury, but it is the meetest reward for them that wil not take heede befoze hande, to repent them afterward when it is to late, for when the steede is stolne, it is no time to shutte the stable doze, and it is most certaine, one far from their good, are neare to their harme, for every man basterh the fat hog, but the leane shall burne befoze he be basted, my meaning is, and it is dayly seene, that he that hath enough shall have moze, he that hath a litle shall have lesse, but hee that hath nothing at all of himselfe, let him be sure that hee shall get nothing of an other, wherfoze (if you couet to be accounted wise and vertuous) knowing how great an ennemye shee is to her selfe, and into how many daungers she intrudeth herself that is negligent and care to conserve her husbands goods, you will rather forbear thinges necessary then you would be any hindetaunce to your husbands profit, yea, & travaile al that you can to increse his stock, rather then one whit to deminish it, wisely waatching that if any thing happen to her husband, otherwise then well, she is not one of the laste, as I sayde befoze, which shall feele the smart of it. And thus praying you to print these precepts in your hart for feare to be over tedious, I leave to trouble you anye moze at this time.

Finis.

The Forrest of Fancy.

A pore yong man being vehemently vexed for the loue
of a fore yong Gentlewoman, craueth her fa-
uour for the conseruation of his lyfe,
almost consumed.



So rare is your betwyte, bountie and grace
that as the Adamante draweth yron vnto
it, so doeth the same draw the mindes of
men vnto you, and like Circes charmes,
transporte them into what likenesse you
list.

What maruaile is it then though manye worthy Gen-
tlemen being bleared with the bright beames thereof, be
inforced for the appeasement of their paine, to seeke all
meanes possible to purchase your gracious good will and
fauour.

But my good mistresse, amongst so many that haue made
sute vnto you, I maruaile you make choyse of none, per-
aduenture it is because you cannot conceiue any constant
eye or faithfull fidelitie to be fixed in them, if it be so, behold
I am he that can and will, if you please, supply that want
in you, & as you shold wel know, if you made use of me,
I doubt not but you should finde me such a one, as in all re-
spectes, would sufficiently satisfy your minde, yea, and so
content you, as the choyse of me, shoulde not once mooue
you to change, the basenesse of my birth be any blemishe
to your dignitie, or your gentle acceptance to my offered
cartelpe, moue you to repent you of so gracious a deede.
Pardon me I pray you, if in this my rude writing, I haue
committed any crime, or done that which is contrary to
duty, and impute the fault onely to loue; whose burning
flames hauing long tyme boyled in my brest, not being a-
ble now, any longer to concele the same, I am thorow ve-
hementcy of the paine, that thereby oppresseth my pore pen-
sive hart, enforced at the last, in hope of redresse, to reueale
my

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my hidden griefes vnto you, being the onely Mistresse of my health, life and libertie, without whose grace or mine owne great perill may not possiblye be repressed, nor my paines appeased, for if they coulde, then eyther feare of your displeasure, reason or duty woulde haue deteined me from this my present purpose, and presumptuous attempt, and not haue permitted mee with wee to wade so farre, in so dangerous a Sea, seeing therefore that the passion which oppresseth me is so paynfull, the fyre that wasteth me so vehement, the cause proceeding from you, and the remedy resting only in your hands, I thinke you cannot be so cruell harted, but that pity will moue you in the ende, to rue the calamitye that youre poore Seruant hath for your sake so long sustayned, and to hasten the remedy for his reliefe, that with the dewe of grace issuing from your moste delicate bodye, you may speedilye queneche that consuming fyre, whiche so continuallye inflameth his harte with despayre to doe suche seemelye seruice as shall be acceptable vnto you, who accompring all payne but pleasure that hee sustaineth for your sake, peeldeth himselfe wholye vnto your clemencie, to render him the finall sentence of lyfe or death, which hee daily expecteth.

Finis.

How foolish women are in the choyse of
their Louers.

The Smith whose topling trade,

hath meard his face with sweat,

And made him like a Croyden Knight,

with working in the heate,

More lucky was in loue,

then Hercules the stoute,

The one in loyde a dainty Dame,

the other went without,

Vulcanus

The Forrest of Fancy.

Vulcanus had to wife,
the Lady cheeke of lone,
Whose passing bewty peerelesse was,
as Paris plaine did proue.
But long Alsidies serude,
saye Iole at her will.
In womans weede, and yet did sayle,
to finde her fauour still,
For oft it is the trade
of women, to ellect
Lewde lumpish loutes deuoyde of wit;
and wiser wightes reiect,
A Clowne that from the Cart,
is come in court to serue,
In whome there is no kinde of cause,
good liking to deserue,
Shall catch a gallaunt gyle,
and purchase at her handes
That others lack, whose faithfull hartes,
were scortcht with Cupids brands;
Then let him lone that list,
for I will leaue the lure,
Of those lewde Dames whose diuelish distes,
such cursed cares procure.

Finis.

Damion wrighteth to his friend Sulippo exhorting him
to seeke preferment whilst the time serueth.

Surely my Sulippo, when I remember the pooze
estate wherin thou presently standest, and compare it with
the misery of this our age, I cannot but greatly maruaile
to see thy slacknesse in seeking preferment considering how
hard a time it is to attaine to any thing, or to kepe y^e which
wee haue with quicnesse, euery one being readye to
pull

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pull the meate out of an other mans mouth, that happy is he who hath any thing to stay vnto, for if he want he shall finde few friendes in his necessity that will pittie his po-
nertie or set to their handes to helpe him, be his neede ne-
uer so great, and therefore in my poore opinion, it is good
(as they say) to hold open the poke whilst the pigge is pro-
fered, and taking the time whilst it serueth, to stryke
whilst the yron is hote, and not with Esopes Dogge, lea-
ning the fleshe for the shadow, forgoe a thing certayne, for
a hope vncertaine, least repentaunce follow, when it is to
late, for better it is to haue one byrde in hande, then two
in the Bushe, seeing that often times whilst the Grasse
growes the sterde starues, for hee that hopeth after deade
men shoes many times goeth barefoote, many things hap-
pen betweene the cuppe and the lippe, and therefore di-
uerse meanes there may be hereafter to hinder that which
may now without any great difficultie, be atchiued see-
ing there is nothing but onely the wante of mayster Mo-
liscus good will, to pzenent your purpose, which by good
perswasion and earnest intreaty, may possibly be obtained
the rather or yf he seeth mayster Gloimerok so desyrous to
doe you good, I pray you therefore finde some good time,
so soone as conueniently you can, to talke with him about
it, for as it greueth me to see the life that now you leade,
without either profite or pleasure, so am I very desyrous
to haue you prouide in Sommer, against the extremity of
the winter, and seeke somewhat in your youth, to mayne-
tain you in your age, to the end that you may be a comfort,
and not a coslie, to the hartes of such your poore friendes,
as wish you well, who will not fayle to do their vttermost
indenuour to further your pferment in all they may.

Thus praying you to remember what I haue written
vnto you, and to put it in practise so soone as you maye, I
bid you farewell.

Finis.

Varinus

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Varinus hauing found in the night time that which pleased his fancy he commendeth it much, and craueth to be accepted for her seruant whom he intyrelly loued.

Though many much mislike the long
and weary winter nights,
I cannot but commend them still,
for diuerse dere delights,
The night we see, brings siluer sleepes,
 sleepe couereth care away,
Cares being cast from out the mind.
there harboures happy ioye,
where ioye abounds, there helth hath place,
where happy helth doth hide,
There life lastes long, this prooue shewes plaine,
and may not be denyde:
Lo this the happy night procures,
which wrought my wished will,
Therefore I must before the day,
preferre and praise it still,
But some perhaps will murraile much,
my foud effect to heare,
Let them not spare none knowes the cause,
why I so strange appeare,
In this my vnacquainted herce,
such darke conceites to write,
Nor neuer shall, but onely I,
and she whose betwixt bright,
Did in the darke both bleare mine eyes,
and lend me perfect light,
She she it is that knowes full well,
from whence my spule procedes,
Yea she it is that both my blisse,
and bale together breeds,
Her presence doth procure my rest,
her absence workes my wo,

The Forrest of Fancy,

Her chearefull lokes doe cheare my hart,
her sorrow makes to flow
Whole floodes of teares from out mine eyes,
and killes my hart with care;
whose comly grace and courtious deedes,
doe make her seeme as rare
As in the world the Phenix is,
and blessed would I count
My selfe, and say that in good luck,
all others I surmount.
Oight I but once such grace obtaine
at her swete handes, to be
Accepted as a sernaunt still,
no more is craude of me,
which if I might archieue, no doubt,
I would my selfe apply,
To please her so in eche respect,
as she should truely trie;
And so confesse, she neuer found
so fytme a friend before,
O sernaunt of such secrecy,
that did esteeme her more:
What so she could commaund or will,
by day or else by night,
On sea or Land I would fulfill,
though death appeared in sight,
O all the greefes that grieftly ghostes,
in Limbo lake sustaine,
Should me assaile with furious moode;
to make me to refraine:
Yet should it not withdraw my minde,
from doing her desyre,
Say good or ill, what so betide,
I would thereto aspyre,
And wages none at all I craue,
but leave it to her will.

According

The Forrest of Fancy.

According to her curtesie,
her fancy to fulfill.
But when she hath made prose of me,
as she shall best deuise,
And sees my seruice what it is,
if she in any wise
Dislike thereof, let her withhold
From me her fauour night,
And vse what kinde of way she will
to worke me more despight.
For as my health on her dependes,
So if I want her grace,
I loth my life and wish for death,
to reane my rusall race.

Finis.

A pore yong man being in loue with a ritch Gentlewoman, fynding it somewhat difficult to obtaine any fauoure at her handes, sought to suppress his fond affection, but could not, wherefore he wrighteth vnto her in effecte as followeth.

There is nothing in the vniuersall worlde, that maye more aptly be compared to the hatefull Hydra, then the painefull passions of lawlesse loue, for the Hydra being assailed by Hercules, alwayes when he cutte of one of his heades, there sprang two in the place of it: so loue, the more it is suppressed, the more it increaseth and groweth still the greater, as is plainly proued by me, though to my payne I repoyte it, for considering on howe high a place my minde was settled, wherevnto to attaine without great perill, I found it almost impossible, I sought by reason to remooue it, if I might, but loue so abounded, that reason bare no

The Forrest of Fancy,

sway and therefore being, ordeyned as it were by destiny
to lyue and dye your loyall louer, and poore saythful Ser-
uaunte howesoener it shall please you to dispose of mee,
yea, though I neuer gaine any grace at all at your handes,
yet must I perforce still perceiue in the same, what soeuer
betwixt me, desyring rather to dye to confirme my con-
stancie, then lyue and lacke your friendlye fauoure,
whereby I am onely sustayned, knowing that when my
vnhappye death, shall happen to come to your hearing,
it will moue such remorse in your harte, considering
that the cause proceeded from your selfe, as you cannot
but be greatly greeued, for the small regarde your hande of
so faithfull a friend, and then, when it is to late wil repent
you of your great ingratitude.

Be not therefore so obstinately bent (I beseech you) to
seeke his confusion that would accounte all payne but
pleasure, which he shoulde suffer in seeking your safetye,
consyder in what case your deuine betwixt hath brought
him, and be not so carelesse of his welfare as you will suf-
fer him to perishe for wante of pittie that cannot receiue
any comforte but by your clemencie, which to denye him,
weare erreame crueltye, and would procure your per-
petuall infamy. The rather for that the remedye rested in
you, and that my greife being taken in time might be easi-
ly cured, to my comfort and your contentment, as you

shall be forced in the end of your selfe to confesse,

if you haue pittie vpon me, as I hope you

will, wherein being fully resolu-

ed, I rest for c-

uer.

Your pore faithfull friend and obe-
dient seruant.

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

The great loue that Itafernes wyfe bare
to her brother.

When Itafernes with all his family,
Were taken captiue By Darius army,
And cast into pison with great extremity,
His wife every day,
Came to the kings gate making pittifull mone,
That these her plaints to take pittie vpon,
At last he was moued with mercye alone.

As wrighters doe say,
In so much as one vnto her he sent,
who willed her then with right good intent,
In the Kings name to cease to lament.

And freely to chuse
The deliuey of one, and she should him haue,
Then she aboue the rest, her Brother did craue,
whose life and libertie she most sought to saue,
To lessen her woes.

The King then wondering that she would prefer
Her Brother before the rest that were there,
Yea before her husband and children most deare,
Whis aunswere she gaue,
An other husband I may get quoth shee,
And other Children if Gods will it be,
But my Parentes being dead, more bretheten then he,
I neuer can haue.

A Louer that stood at an vncertaine staye, wrighteth
this for aunswere to a Letter that he recey-
ued from her whome he loued,

Mistress harmonia I receiued your Letters whiche
seeme vnto me so difficulte as I am thereby broughte
as it were into a Labarinth oute of whiche I knowe not
well

The Forrest of Fancy.

well how to winde me. Some time you glie me hope, and by and by crosse me with the contrary, your wordes are so obscure, as my simple capacite cannot conceiue the meaning of them, plaine dealing is best among friendes, good meaning must not be couered with a counterfet colour. I haue made you an honest demaund, but can receiue no certaine aunswere of it, if you thinke mee but worthe of you, let me vnderstand it in plaine speeches, and I will soone seace my sute, for if you cannot fancy me, I neither maye, nor will inforce you to it.

If you like of my demaunde, vnto mee not of, with doubtfull delays, for that is very dangerous.

Your vertuous education, and commendable qualities, are the onely causes that haue constrained me to loue you, for the which I more esteeme you (being as you are) then otherwise I woulde doe, weare you neuer so welthy, you say my sute is reasonable, and yet ye reproue it as vnprofitable, you confesse me to be worthy of you, and yet refuse to render your selfe vnto me, being the partie, whome as boue all other I chiefly desyre, and would most willingly possesse, if so it pleased you. In deede I confesse, that good deliberation and carefull consideration is to bee had in so waighy a cause which I had in remembraunce, before I made any motion thereof vnto you, yet if there bee any thing that I haue neglected, if you would let me vnderstand wherein, and what it is, it should be better respected, and being amisse, most willingly amended. And whereas you refuse to yeeld your consent without the counsel of others, to aske counsell in any thing, it is commendable, and to follow it (if it be good) is right profitable, but whose counsell you craue I know not, vnles it be your parentes, which if it be, the same I hope wil not be contrary to my contentation: yet do I not so much depend vpon that, as I will therefore seeke to them, before I haue assayed you, I haue some assurance at your handes, of the thing I seeke for, which is only in you to graunt, and without you cannot be obtained

The Forrest of Fancy.

obteyned, or if it be, it must be by compulsion; & then were a mā better be without it: for forced mariages haue neuer good effect: But peradventure you haue some further purpose in it, then I am prync vnto, it may be that you imagin my good will to be grounded vpon so light an occasyon, as gaining my purpose, I would quickly flie from my former professions, make moze haste in the matter then reason requyret, or vlc some dytfe to deceiue your present expectation, but how farre my good meaning is from these imaginations, God and myne own conscience only knoweth. you challenge me as if I had bene ouer lawishe of my language in blazing things abrode, that are not yet brought to passe which if I should doe (as I take God to witness, I haue not) I might woorthely be condemned for a foole, & serue as a laughing stock to all men, that shal see it fal out otherwise hereafter. And therefore I beseech you put such imaginations out of your minde, and condemn me not as guiltye before you haue cause to accuse me. And in conclusion I hartily beseech you, not to trifle out the time anye longer, but to render me a ready answer to that whiche I demand of you, howsoener it be, I care not, for I can better brooke a flat refusall, then suffer my selfe to be sedde with foolish hope, for a thing so vncertaine: and therefore where subtilly you say at the foote of your letter (yours, for so it may be) henceforward either refuse me flatly or else put downe plainly in the place of it (yours I am & wilbe) so shall you both satisfy me sufficiently, and also greatly ease your self of the trouble that my tedious writing (if so you accountee it doth presently put you vnto, and so fare you well.

The straunge pangs of a pore passionate
Loner.

Not as I am, nor as I wish to be,
But as false fortune frames my forward fate.
Cuen

The Forrest of Fancy

Even so I am not bound nor fully free
Not quite forlorne, nor yet in quiet state,
I wish for death, and yet the death I hate,
This life leade I, which life is wondrous strange,
yet for no life would I my life exchange,
I seeke the sight of that I sigh to see,
I ioy in that which breeds my great care,
Such contraries doe payly comber me,
As in one thing I find both ioy and rest.
Which gaine he gets that is Cupidos guest,
For whome he catcheth in his curled snare,
He giues great hope yet kills his hart with care,
Finis.

Of the thankfulness of a Dragon towards a man that
had brought him vp.

As Bruson mention makes,
one rhoas in his youth
Brought vp a Dragon yong,
and of a certain truth,
when as he greater grew,
feeling his nature fell,
Conuaide him thence into a woode,
and left him there to dwell.
It hapned after rhoas was,
within that wood beset
with many Thernes, at which self time
not making stay or let,
when as the Dragon heard his voyce,
which he remembred tho,
He rushed forth and rescued him,
from those that with his wo.
Finis.

Be

The Forrest of Fancy.

R. D. Being inflamed with the loue of a very bewtifull
Gentlewoman, by a sodaine view that he tooke of
her, doth colourably declare his case
vnto her.

As late I walke abroad for my delight,
To put all foolish fancies from my minde,
It was my chauce vpon a plot to light,
Wherein I did great cause of comfort fynde,
A goodly Garden garnish'd euery where,
With fragrant flowers of sundry sort and sent.
No strange device could be that wanted there,
That euer wit of man might well inuent.
A goodly chrystall spring ran through this place,
Whose bankes with sundry trees was brauely deckt,
To shew ech thing by course, would crane long space,
And yet some part I should of force neglect,
But that which made me most of all to muse,
Was to behold ech thing so well conuayde,
And could not finde that any one did vse,
To make abode therein, yet halfe asrayde
(Though cause were none) I durst not enter in.
But stood as one amasde, this sight to see,
That whosoener then had present bene,
would not haue thought that life had longde in me,
My senses failde, my feete were fix'd fast,
My sight wast dimme, yet staring stood I still,
But coming to my selfe againe at last,
And seing there no signe of any ill,
Nor none that would my passage once restraine,
But that the gates wide open stood to all,
I banish'd feare which erst procured my paine,
And did determine what so should befall,
To enter in, and view it round about,
And so I did in deede without anoye,

The Forrest of Fancy.

For nothing was there which I neede to doubt,
But all thinges turnde vnto my treble top.
When as I fully had ech thing surmised,
And fed my fancy as it likte me best,
Into an Arbour I my selfe conuaide,
And there lay downe to take my quiet rest,
Into a heauy sleepe straight wayes I fell,
And then me thought there did appeare in place
Two gallant Dames, whose bewty did excell,
Whereof the one beholding long my face,
At last with stealing steppes appzocht more neare,
And drawing forth a knyfe in dreadfull wise,
Did pierce the part which I esteemde most deare,
Which done from of the ground she gan to ryle,
And by and by did vanissh out of sight,
Which way or how, I could not well perceine,
Wherewith I wakened (being soze afright)
So much it did my quiet rest bereane,
And then my naked body I behilde,
To see if any wound would there appeare,
But euery place with flesh was fully hilde,
No wound was seene, ech place was fayre and cleare,
But when I rose, with mind to walke from thence,
Such grisly greefe did gripe my tender hart,
As for a time it hindred my pretence,
And from that place I scarce had power to part,
Yet as I could, although my pale were slowe,
I at my lodging did at last arine,
And layde me downe in greefe which still did grow,
And greater ware, and happy helth depriue,
I sought Physitions helpe, my hurt to heale,
But Physick could no whit at all pzenaile,
And therefore still I must the same conceale,
And as a wight forlorne my woe bewayle,
Untill the louely Dame that did the deede,
Wolchsafe her grace to ease my present greefe.

The Forrest of Fancy.

In her it lyes my bitter bale to breed,
Or if she please to render me releefe,
Which if she once refuse I am right sure,
My lothed life that hope doth now prolong,
Shall not long time be able to endure,
But die I must, because she doth me wrong.

Finis.

An aunswere to a Letter that was not onely darke, but
also so-disordered, as their could no sence be
perceiued in it.

V Ploked for. I did receiue of late,
Such lynes as led me into double doubt,
First whence they came, and from what minyon mate,
And secondly I mused whereabout,
And for what cause they should to me be sent,
But when I had perused them ouer well,
Was neare the next in knowing thy intent,
For such a fencelesse tale thou sei miste to tell,
And so confuse, as what I should conceiue,
Of any part thereof I knew not I.
Lo stayed Students I the same will leaue,
By learned skill the secrete sence to trie,
Vnlesse that thou that didst deuise the same,
Wilt take the paines to glose vpon the rest,
And set to shew the figures thou didst frame,
Whereby it seemes thy mind is much perplext,
For neither doth the matter match aright,
Nor yet the beare but barries euery where,
I speake in sport, no cause I haue to spight,
And as thou wilt, so with thy want I beare,
None is a lawlesse Lord, both he and his
Are free from blame what so they doe or say,
And therefore though they sometime come amiss,
That once haue leaned to his lucklesse lay.

The Forrest of Fancy.

The fault is in the froward fittes they feele,
which leades their mindes to like of many thinges,
And still to turne as doth the whirling wheele,
whereof the fruite of folly freely springs.
Thy worthe worke may well compared be,
Unto A building brauely becke without,
The inward partes whereof, who so shall see,
May finde it framde of clay and durr no doubt,
For on the same when fyrst myne eyes I bent,
The entraince bare so bzaue a modesty,
That sure I thought some Muse the same had sent
From Helicon to please my fantasy,
But when I had a little further past,
Such paltrie pelfe presented was to me,
As bzaue me into other thoughtes at last,
So great a chaunge so sodainly to see,
But borrowed ware will beare no better showe,
An Ape's an Ape, though robes be neare so fytte,
The good from bad a man may easily knowe,
This makes thee claw whereas thou dost not itche,
well galbback well, although I rubbe thee now,
If that thou winche, I waye it not a might,
Such cloyed cunning can I not allow,
Halt not henceforth when Criples are in sight,
For trust to this thy Peacockes borrowed tayle,
Cannot so craftely be coucht on thee,
But that the fine denice thereof will sayle,
If it be matchte with those that kindly be,
In fine I wishe thee if thy mind be moude,
To heare the matter more at large set out,
which to prouoke thou hast so blindly proude,
Then make it plaine, and cleare it cleane of doubt.
Let finenesse goe and vse no secrete sight,
To couer that which cannot be consealed,
And then will I as well pluck vp my spightes,
To open that I haue not yet reuealed,

Finis.

The

The Forrest of Fancy.

C. L. Wrichting to a speciall Friende of his , that was somewhat greeued in minde , for certaine troubles that were happened vnto him, geueth him such friendly consolation as was requisite for one in his case.



If I am well assured , that in seeking to geue counsell to one so wise, and consolation to one of such constancy as you are. I shall rather reape reproch for my rashnes then anye wayes purchase praise for my good meaning.

And although you that know what cause moued mee therewith, doe not so conceiue it, yet they that shall heare repozte thereof, being ignorant of the greates good will that I beare vnto you, will be ready to imagine the worst of it.

But let them thinke what they list. I had rather that all others shoulde accuse me of presumption , then that you should haue iust cause to condemne me of ingratitude, or thinke my friendship to be of small effect . And therefore though that I wright be not such as should seeme to proceede from a man indued with greates learning, and wisdom, yet being well assured that whatsoeuer it bee , you will acceptably receiue it, and consider it to the best . I will not feyle either by that or any other meane I may, at all times to manifest my good meaning vnto you, and the willing minde I haue to doe you good , so farre soth as my weak wite and small habilitie can reach vnto . It is not at al to be doubted, but y^e miseries that raine in this wretched world are very many , and very great, but as they are necessary meanes to make vs knowe our selues, and acknowledge the weakenesse of our humaine nature, so should wee patientlie tollerate the troublesome toyles
and

The Forrest of Fancy.

and tormentes thereof, as it is the part of a wyse and well disposed person alwayes to doe.

What though you be now forbidden the court where you haue long tyme liued in great estimation? wil you therfore so vnmeasurably wee & torment your selfe? as though your sorrow should neuer take end. It were no doubt a thing cleane contrary to your wisdom & grauitie, and would be a great disgrace to your noble nature, & the haughtinesse of your liberall hart, to be found vnable by the rule of reason to resist the fierce assaultes of froward Fortune: For as in tyme of prosperitie you gouerned your selfe with great modesty, so should you now that the contrary is happened, be armed with as great pacience to sustaine the sensiter and sorrowfull euents that this wretched world rendereth vnto all them that therein haue their abiding. Assure your selfe that those of your friends which now remain in the court, are well contented that you haue so forsaken it, without hope euer to retourne againe, not because they are willing to wante your companye, for that is the thing they chiefly couet, but because they knowe the misery of that place to bee suche, as it should rather bee shunned, then sought for by all those that loue to leade a quiet and peaceable life.

And I am well assured, that if you had the power to enter into the hartes of men to search their secret thoughts you should finde those of the Court accompanied with such continuall cares, frighted with such fearefull fancies, and fraught with such follies, subiect to so many dangerous discommodities and perplexed with suche strange and perillous passions, as you your selfe since your departure from the Court neuer assayed the lyke, but would bee forced to confesse that their greefes doe farre surmount your owne.

Now by how much moze greuous and difficult it is to see then to heare those thinges that molest the mynde if by meanes of the miseries & calamities of this wretched world

The Forrest of Fancy.

world, which so greatly disturbeth the quiet state of all earthly creatures, you suppose one place more painefull and troublesome to continue in then an other, by so much should you thinke the same to be in the Courte rather then any where else: for surely so it is, as your selfe know right well, what semblance soever you seeme to make to the contrary. But you wright sometime like a Gnat enforced of necessitye either to praise that whiche is praise worthy, or to doe that which is not desent, but deserving great blame: both which are cleane contrary to your natural inclination. Such is the wretchednesse of our age, that every one esteemeth his owne estate to be moste miserable, what though men dispoyle you of those transitory riches which Fortune sometime gave you in great aboundance, yet can they not bereave you of that rare and renowned riches, to wete, the excellent vertues of the mynde, whiche God and Nature hath so graciously grafted in you from the beginning, as they cannot by any means be altered or changed but do continually grow and increase in you, & are sufficient though all thinges else were wanting, for a hart conducted by honour, and governed by reason, to live well and happily withall.

It has much hane I thought good to write vnto you to make prooffe of your wisdom, to the end she should again receive into her handes the reine of reason, which she had of late let slip, whereby you were dyruen for wante of her good guiding to wander out of the right way, whiche you hane so long inducoured to follow. I pray you wright oftener vnto me, but let your letters containe more myrrh, then those that heretofore you hane sent mee, to the ende that I may finde for my satisfaction that my words were of the force to remoue from you al careful cogitations, and fill your mynde with ioy and gladnesse, praying the Almighty to graunt you your health and hartes desyre in all thinges.

Finis.

A

The Forrest of Fancy.

A yong Gentleman whose loue was hindred by false reportes, wrighteth to his Lady that had promised her good will, so her friendes would agree vnto it.



He pooze wearied Trauepyler that after long sayling the Seas in no small danger, and at the last attaineth to the wished Haven, is blowne backe againe and brought into greater perills then befoze, may most easily iudge the greatnesse of my greeses, who being raised to the toppes of all felicity by the fauour I found at your friendly hands for furtheraunce of my despyed comforte, I am now by myne owne euill destiny & the mallice of malicious makebates, who moze respecting their owne pimate profit then honest reputation, the rather to preferre those that they like better of, haue raised such slanderous reports against me, vnderly booke of truth, as haue moued them to mislike, that of late liked well of me, wherby I am driven into such dangerous doubtes, as if your good nature (which I know cannot conceine any ill of them that deserue wel) did not somewhat releue me, all hope of comforte would quickly die in me, and my cares so greatly abound, as my hartt should neuer be able to harbour such ioy as is meete for my yong yeares.

Your mother as I heare, is so incensed against mee, as not withstanding the many reasons alleaged, and playne proofes made to the contrary, she will not reuoke that euill opinyon which the false perswasions of lewde persons hath caused her vniustly to conceine of me, but let her or any other thinke of me what they list, so long as I knowe my self cleare of crime, and may be assured of your fauour I care not if all the world were bent against me, for as you are the first that euer my fancy coulde frame to lyke of, so I assure you, if my faithfull meaning find not good effecte
you

The Forrest of Fancy.

you shall likewise be the last that euer I will in such sorte seeke vnto: for you haue already robed me of my hart, and will leaue me hardlesse, vlesse you restore mee yours in steede of it, and so shall my lpe and lone end both together. When shew not your selfe vnthankfull for so greate a benefit, requite not my courtely with vnkindnesse, nor my good will with disdain, but render me such recompence as is requisit for one that wisheth you so well. It is meete I must confesse for children in all thinges reasonable to be ruled by their parentes, but how farre from reason it is to follow their fancie in cases of Matrimonye, the great euill that hath ensued to those y haue lefte their own liking and submitted themselves wholly to their friends direction, (if they may be called friends that perswade to thinges so vnprofitable) hath oftentimes made to manifest: and therefore if it be so that my person and liuing may like you pferseuer in your good purpose, make me sole inheritor of your amitie, and geue me that intrest in you which onely belongeth to him that ought to inioy you for euer. whiche my hart more desireth then to be Emperour of al Europe, and to command the whole world at my pleasure, whiche I hope you will not denye me, if you respecte youre manye friendly professions heretofore made vnto me, and desyre by deedes to confyrme that which by your words you haue often affirmed, for you were alwaies redy (as it seemed to me) to lpe of mine honest offer, if your friends wold likewise allow of it, which your father hath alwayes done, though your mother (more beleuing false reports then the certain truth) be otherwise inclined. And I doubt not, but if you that are the principall wold once graunt your good will, your mother hauing tribe my honest meaning, wold likewise easily be perswaded to alter her opiniõ, & to think better of me then she doth, and therefore to cleare my mind of such doubtres as now greatly disturbe me, I expect your speedy answer, which I hope in all thinges to find agreeable to my good desires, that onely crane to leade a happye and quiet life vnder the fauour of your deuine graces.

The Forrest of Fancy,

T. O. Being enamored of a rich yong Gentlewoman, as well through the report of her vertues, as for that which he himselfe had seene in her, wrighteth vnto her in this maner.



Ike as the poze Pilgrime, that after long Trauaille in a straunge countrey, at the last meting with two r^e wayes, and not knowing which were best to take, to bring him to the place hee would arriue at, is constrained to stand stil as one amazed, So I, partly through the often reportes I heard of your courteous inclination & commendable quallities, but specially for y^e I haue seene to be in you, seeing in my self a certaine secret affection towards the good graces wherewith you are so greifly garnished, desyring to be made partaker of those pleasures that may be purchased by the possession of a thing so precious, was sometime in the mynde to manifest my meaning, and make you priuie to the passions that I haue long sustained, for want of that whiche maye onely releue me, hoping to finde your pittifull hart redy to take compassion vpon him, whose troubled minde can neuer take rest, till he haue receiued from you that friendly fauour that he so earnestly desyeth, and well deserueth, if hartly good will doe merit so good a recompence. But otherwhiles remembring my estate, and the difference of degrees that is betweene vs, which made me dispayre euer to purchase my desyred comfort, but rather that my courtesy shold be scorned, and my good will requited with scoffes, I determined neuer to put in practise to purchase a thing so difficult.

Thus hauing long hanged betweene hope and dispayre Loue at the last rooke so deepe roore in my harte, as it might not easily be repelled, wherefore (wanting other meanes) I thought good by writing to make trial of your
cortesy,

The Forrest of Fancy.

courtesy, which was so greatly commended, hoping that at the least, you will asoord me a friendly answer, though I sayle of that which may better content me, I know ther be many of greater wealth that you maye match withal if you will, but I am certaine that if you shoulde seeke thorow out the whole worlde it were not possible for you to fynde one that would so well account of you, or be more carefull for your commodiry then I would be, if it mighte be my good happe to intoy you, with whome you might be assured to lead a more quiet and better contented lyfe, then with one whose parentes hath left him a large patrimony, of euill gotten goods, which is commonly as ill spent. And therefore if there be in me that may contente you, or if your fancy can frame to lyke of mee as I am, let mee

finde it by your friendly aunswere, whiche I

wil expect with assured hope to find it in

all thinges agreeable to my good de-

syres, that greatly couet to

be accompted.

Wholy yours, or not to be at all.

Finis.

Seigneur Francisco Vergelis, for a fayr ambling gelding, suffered one Seigneur Richardo Magnifico to talk with his wife, who gaue him no aunswere at all, but he aunswering for her, in such sort as if she her self had spoken it, according to the effect of his wordes, it came afterwards to passe.

Many there are that conceiue so well of themselves, as in respect of their owne wisdom and knowledge, they thinke all other men to be but fooles, and boyd of vn-

R. y.

der

The Forrest of Fancy,

derstanding, and yet we often times see, y these fine braded fellows whilst they indenour by their subtile devises, to deceiue others, are in the end most deceined themselves.

And therefore in my opinyon he is worthy much blame, that goeth about by suche indirect meanes, to make more narrow tryall of other mens wits then is needefull. And for more perfect prooffe of their folly, you shall heare what happened to a Knight of Pistoy, vpon the like occasion.

In the Cittie of Pistoy hard by Florence, there was some time amongst the family of the Vergelesies, a Knight called Francisco, a man very rich, wise, and well experimented in many matters, but therewithall beyonde all measure couetous. Hee hauing occasion to goe to Millan to be Potentate there, was prouided of all thinges fitte for his purpose, and agreeable to the honozable estate he was called vnto, saue onely of an ambling Gelding, for himself to ride vpon, and could get none to his contentment, but that he alwayes thoughte the price to great that he should pay for it. There was the same time in Pistoy a yong man named Richardo, descended of a base parétage, but yet very riche who for the neatnesse and brauery that he vsed in his apparrell, was of euery man comonly called Magnifico, & had of long time loued, & diuersetymes courted (without any comforte of that he craved) the wife of Seigneor Francisco, that was exceeding fayre, & withall very honest.

Now it so happened, that this Magnifico had the fayrest ambling gelding in all Tuscan, which for the bewtye and goodnesse of it, he highly esteemed: And being manifestlye knowne, thzoughout the cittie, that he was enamoured of the sayde Lady, there was some that told Seigneor Francisco y if he would request it in gift, he might easily obtaine it for the loue he bare vnto his wife. Seigneor Francisco burning with avarice, sent to seeke magnifico, and requested to buy his Horse, to the end her shoulde offer to giue it him. Magnifico hearing this, was very well pleased, and answered say, if you would giue mee all that euer you haue

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in the world I would not sell him, but yet you may haue him in gifte if you please, vpon the condition, that before you haue him, I may with your leaue, & in your presence utter certaine wordes to your wife, so farre from you, that none may heare me but only she, Seignior Francisco being led by conetousnes, and hoping to delude Magnifico, answered that he was very wel content whesoeuer he wold, and hauing left him in the hall, hee wente to his wifes Chamber and told her howe easilye hee might obtaine the ambling Gelding, commanding her to come and heare what Magnifico would say, but not to answer him to anything that hee shoulde alledge vnto her. The Ladye misliked much of this practise, but yet being bound to obay her husbandes mind, she promised to do it, and followed him into the Hall, to heare what Magnifico would say.

who hauing againe confirmed the couenaunte, made with her husband, set himselfe downe by her, in one of the Counters of the hall, farre ynough from any body, and began to say in this manner. Madame, I know your wisdomme to be such, as I am wel assured you haue long since plainly perceined how great the loue is, that your bewey (which passeth without comparison all other that euer I saw) hath constrained mee to heare vnto you, I leaue to speake of the commendable qualities and rare vertues that remain in you, whiche haue power to vanquish the most vaine hart in the whole world, wherefore it is not needfull by wordes to declare vnto you, that the loue I beare you, is farre greater and more feruent, then euer man bare to any other woman liuing, to herby I am almost brought to that passe, that my miserable life is scarcely able to sustaine my poore weakened members, and yet dare I be bolde to saye more vnto you, that if it be lawfull for men to loue when they are dead, as they may doe being aloue, I shall loue you for ever.

R. 19.

And

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And therefore you may well assure y^{ou}re selfe, that you haue nothing whatsoeuer it be, either deare or good cheape that you may so well esteeme your owne, or make so sure account of, as of me, and of that I may be, and semblably of al that euer I inioy, and to the end you may be the more certain of that I say, I assure you I should account it for a singuler fauour that your worl^ds vouchsafe to commaund me any thing that I am able any way to performe; and may be agreeable to your good liking, for whatsoener it were, though all the worl^d should saye and sweare the contrarie I would surely put it in practise.

Now Madame being so muche your owne, as you heare I am, I take boldnesse (not without great reason) to addresse my prayers to your highnesse; on whome onely, and on none other, my rest welch and safety wholly dependeth, and as your most humble seruauⁿt, I humbly beseech you, my dearest good & only hope of my loue, which nourisheth it selfe in the amorous sye, hoping in you, that your good will shall be great, and your rigour (whiche you haue of long time extended towardees mee that am your owne,) so mollified, that feeling my selfe recomforted by your compassion, I may say that as by your bewyce I became amorous, so doe I thereby also inioy the lyfe (which if your harty hart incline not to my prayers) would without doubt be in such sort consumed, as I should shortlye dye, and so might you be called and accounted the Murtherer of me, and yet should my death be no honor at al vnto you, notwithstanding I beleene that when at any time, the same should come to your hearing, you would saye to your selfe.

Alas what cull haue I done, in not hauing compassion of my Magnifico, and being then to late to repent you of any thing that is past, it will be vnto you an occasion of very great greefe. Wherefore to the end that it come not so to passe, haue now some compassion vpon mee, and before I be past remedy, render me that which may releue me,

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me, for in your onely doth it rest to make mee the moste contented, or most discontented Creature living, hoping alwayes that your curtesy shall be so great, as you wil not suffer me to receiue death, for recompence of suche and so great good will, as I beare vnto you, but will with a ioyfull and gracious aunswere, recomforte my poore sprighes which altogether ouercome with feare, doe tremble at your presence.

Then Magnifico making an ende, and hauing shed de some teares, after many greenous sighes, he began to harken what the Lady wold answere, now she whom neither the long sutes made vnto her, the Iustes and Turneyes, nor lost time, or anye such like thing which Magnifico had done, for the loue of herre, had neuer before mooued anye thing at all to loue him, was now mooued therevnto by the effectuall words vttered by her moste seruente Louer, and began to feele that which she had neuer felt before, and iudged this to proceede only of loue, and thought to fulfill the charge that her husbände had giuen her, shee held her peace, notwithstanding by the secret sighes which she sent forth it mighte easilye bee coniectured what aunswere she would willingly haue made to her beloued magnifico, if she might.

He hauing a while attended her aunswere, and perceiuing that shee answered nothing at all, greatlye merrailed, and beganne to perceiue the deceipt and subtiltie of her husband, but yet in regarding her countenance and perceiuing some glaunces of her eyes cast vpon him, & besides that, remembryng the sighes which shee sent forth from the bottome of her hart, he receiued some good hope, And building herevpon bethought himselfe, and then began to aunswere her, as though she her selfe had sayde, in this manner.

Friend Magnifico, I did long since surmise that thy loue towards me was very great and perfecte, and now am more certaine of it by thy words, whiche are of farre greater

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greater force, wherewith I am as well contented, as may be, notwithstanding if it seeme vnto thee, that I haue hitherto bene hard and cruell vnto thee, yet woulde I not haue thee to thinke that my harte hath bene suche as my countenance hath shewed me to be, but rather y^e I haue loved and held thee more deare then any other, but it was meeke I should for y^e time conceale it, as well for feare of others, as to keepe my good name vnspotted, but now the time commeth, that I may make thee more plainly to vnderstand whether I loue thee or no, and giue thee a meete guerdon for the loue which thou hast so long borne vnto me. Wherefore comfort thy selfe, and haue good hope, for Seignior Francisco must go within these fewe dayes, as Potentate to millian (as thou thy selfe knowest) when thou for my sake hast giuen him thy good amblesing. Wellding, and so soone as he is gone, thou shalt be most welcome vnto me, and we wil then giue ful accomplishment to our loue, and therefore haue regarde from henceforth, when thou findest two Kercheues hanging out of my chamber window ouer the garden, and then in the Euening, when it is somewhat darke, repaire thou vnto me, by the garden doore, hauing good regard that no body see thee. & there thou shalt finde me ready to receiue thee, then will we take our pleasure togither, all the whole night, and make as greafe cheare as we may.

When magnifico had in the person of the Lady spoken all this, he began to aunswere for himselfe and sayde.

Deare Lady, my spirites are so much occupied by the aboundaunt ioy that I conceiue by your wordes, that I can hardlye frame an aunswere or utter ane thing, to giue you condigne thanks for the same, and if I could, yet should I not finde sufficient time to gratifie your good wil as I desyre, and as it is mete I should, and therefore I beseeche you, that what soeuer I desyre to do, (& cannot by wordes declare it) you will vouchsafe to conceiue the same in your minde. Only I assure you, that without faulre I will

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will perfoyme your charge, & order all my actions according to your good direction, and when meete opportunity shall serue me, to receiue the fauour whiche you haue so freely promised, I will inforce my self in all I may, so praiſe you the greatest thanks that I am able. And now hauing no more to ſaye vnto you at this preſente, wiſhing you ſuch ioy and welfare as your hart deſireth, I commit you to God.

For all this the Lady answered not a word to herſofoze Magnifico riſe & began to retourne towards her husband who ſeeing him vp, went to meete him, and ſayd O ſpy, what thinke you now: haue I kept promiſe with you? Po ſpy answered magnifico, for you promiſed me that I ſhould talk with your wiſe, & you haue made me to ſpeake with an Image of ſtone.

This anſwere greatly pleaſed Seignior Franſiſco, who although he had a good opinton of his wiſe befoze, yet now he thought better of her then euer he did, and ſaid: but yet the ambling gelding that was yours, is nowe myne. wherevnto Magnifico answered: yea ſpy, but if I had thought to reape no better fruite then this, by the fauour I found at your handes, without demanding the ſame, I would freely haue giuen you my Gelding.

And would to God I had done ſo in deede, for then had I not in ſelling him, bought mine owne ſorrow, nor in ſeeeking ſafety, loſt my former liberty.

Seignior Franſiſco laughed hartely at this anſwere, and ſeing himſelf ſo wel provided of an ambler. ſhortly after ſet forward on his iorney towardeſ Millan.

The Lady then remayning in her houſe all alone, thinking vpon the wordes that Magnifico had befoze time ſaid vnto her, remembzing his loue, and how he had for her ſake, giuen her Husband his good ambling Gelding, ſeing alſo the ſayd Magnifico diuerſe times to paſſe to and fro befoze her doze, ſhe ſaid vnto her ſelfe.

What ſhall I doe: wherefoze ſhould I loſe my yomh: my

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hus.

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band is gone to Millen, and will not retorne again these
six monethes, and when will hee ever bee able to paye
his arerages, what when I am old and care not for it be-
sides that, when shall I ever finde such a friende as Mag-
nifico? I am now alone, and in feare of no body, and if it
were knowne, yet is it better to doe it, and afterwarde to
repent me, then not to doe it, and to be sorrye that I
did it not.

And having thus debated with her self, in the end deter-
mining to take the time whilst it served, she hanged one
day two kercheifes out at the Garden window, which
Magnifico perceiuing (being very glad of it) he went all se-
cretely so soone as the night was come, to the garden doze
and found it open, and from thence went to an other doze
which was at the entraunce of the house, where he mette
with the Lady that attended his coming, who seeing him
come, rise vp, and went to meete him, and embraced him
with great joy, he having kissed and imbraced her a hun-
dred times, followed her vp the staires into her chamber,
where being arriued, they went by and by to bedde together
and then they knew the spmall end of their love. And al-
though this were the firste time, yet was it not the

last. For whilst Seignior Francisco was at mil-
lan, and also after his retourne, Magnifico
frequently frequented the house, to the
great comfort and content-

ment of them.

Book.

Finis.

Theodore.

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Theodore enamoured of Maister Emeries daughter, that was his Maister, got her with child, for the which he was condemned to be hanged, and as he was whipped through the stretes, to the place of execution, being knowne to his Father he procured his pardon, and so Thodore married the maide whom he had before deflowered.

Whereby is signified the diuers dangerous and troublesome accidentes that dayelye happen vnto vs, by the power of loue, and frailty of fortune, the only tormenters of mans life.



At what time the good King William gouerned Sicille, there was dwelling within his dominions a yong Gentleman, named Maister Emery the Abbot of Trapani, who (amongest other worldly goods, wherewith God had indued him) had many fayre childzen, wherfore hauing great neede of Seruauntes, as he came from the east partes, certaine Gallies of Genouian Pirats, who in coasting Armenia, had taken diuerse yong childzen, whome they ment to make money of, being arriued in the Countrey of Leuant, at the same time that he passed thorow it, he bought certaine of them, thinking they had bene Infidels, amongst whom though the rest semed to be but Sheapheardes, there was one that appeared to be proceeded of a higher progenye, and to bee of more estimation, whose name hight Theodore, who being growne to mans state, (though he were bled as a Slave,) was notwithstanding brought vp, and nourished with maister Emeries owne Childzen, and inclining more to his naturall disposition then to his present Fortune, he began to be very curteous, and well condicions, wherby he so much pleased maister Emery, as hee

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made him free, and for that he thought him to be an Infidel, caused him to be baptised, and named him Peter. And so good assurance he had in him, that shortly after, he committed to his charge all his most waighty affayres.

Now as Maister Emeries Children increased, amongst the rest, a daughter of his waring very sayre and dellicat, after she had long remained unmarried, seeing her parēts so slow in bestowing her, at the last she fell very far in loue with Peter her fathers man; and as she esteemed him greatly, and tooke delight in all his doings, so was she determined (if shame had not withheld her) to giue him vnderstanding of it. But loue eased her of that pain: For Peter hauing thereby conceiued some secrete hope, became so enamoured of her, as he neuer thought himselfe well withoute her company, notwithstanding hee was still in greate feare leasse some body should perceiue it, thinking that therein he did amisse.

The Mayde that easily perceiued his inward meaning, the better to imbolden him, made semblance vnto him (as it was true in deede,) that she allowed of his loue, and was well contented with it.

And in these tearmes either of them remained long time without daring to say any thing to one to the other, though they both desired it very earnestly. But whilst they equally consumed in this amorous flame, Fortune (as if she had willed that which came to passe) found out a way to expel the feare, that so greatly hindred them. which was, that Maister Emery had not far from the towne of Trappani, a very sayre house, wherevnto his wife, with his Daughter and diuers other their friends and familiers, resorted often times to passe the time, and make merrye together, and one day amongst the rest, Peter being with her, after they had remayned there a while, it happened, (as diuers times it doth in the sommer season) that the weather ouercast, wherefore the Gentlewoman and her company, (because the storme should not take them there) prepared them

selues

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selues with all speede to resourne to trappany. But Peter and Violenta that were pong and lusty (peraduenture no lesse pzyckit forwarde by lone, then for feare of the soule weather) so farre out rid all the rest of their company, that they were cleane out of sight, after a litle thunder, there came sodainely a great Hayle, and withall a soule foggy miste, which caused the old Gentlewoman and all her company to goe back againe with a Pellant of the countrey. But Peter and the mayde haying none other refuge, but an old ruinate house, that was almost al salu to the ground, where no body inhabited, they were forced to enter into it, and there vnder a small conuerture, that was yet remaining, they closely couched themselves, to defende the storme, which close couching was an occasion moze fzymely to vnite their hartes, and also the time and place aptly seruing them to discouer their amourous passions. Peter gaue the first onset, and said:

Mistresse Violenta I would to God that it woulde neuer leane hayling, and that I might still continue in this estate.

Whereto Violenta replied: Durlye so woulde I, and then taking ech other by the hand, and afterwards imbrasing and sweetely kissing (the Storme still conriking) before they departed from thence they intoyed the finall fruition of their vnsained affection, determining after that moze often to take their pleasure togither.

At the last the storme ceased, and then they went to the next towne, where they attended the comming of the reste of their company, that they might go home altogither, and after this, diuers times in a wise and secret manner, they exercisid their lone, & so applyed their busines, that Violenta grew bigge, whiche greatly disliked either of them, wherefore she vsed al the meanes she might, to find remedy for it, but it preuailed not.

And therefore Peter fearing to lose his lyfe, determined to take his flight, and told her of it, which Vio-

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lent a hearing, swaie unto him & if he went a thap: she wold
 flay her self. When Peter that loued her exceeding wel sayd
 vnto her. Alas my deare, why wouldest thou haue me tar-
 ry, thy greatnesse will discouer our offence, which being
 known, thou maist easily procure thy pardon; but a poore
 wretch shall abide the punishment both for thy offence and
 mine own: where vnto Violenta thus answered; wether my of-
 fence must needes be known in deede, but as for thine, as-
 sure thy self (if thou be wary if not) it shall neuer be known
 to any. Being you promise me so (said Peter.) I will carry,
 but take heed you keepe promise with me: Violenta that
 had couered her crime so much as she might, perceiuing &
 her belly grieue so bigge as she could no longer hide it, dis-
 couered the same one day to her mother (weeping bitterly) &
 besought her to saue her life, her mother grieved hereat be-
 yond measure, & with a thousand threatnings demanding
 who was the authour of it, Violenta to the end that Peter
 should receive no hurt thereby, faigned an excuse altogether
 contrary to the truth, which her mother beleeued, & to couer
 her daughters fault, sent her to a house that she had in the
 country, being there when the time was come & she shold
 be brought a bed (crying as women vse to doe) & her mo-
 ther not thinking that maister Emery (who seldom vsed to
 passe that way) would then come thither, it hapned that
 he returned from hunting, and passed along by his chamber
 where Violenta remained, he sodainly entered in, marua-
 ling to here her cry in that maner, & demanded what the
 matter was. His wife seeing him there, rise by in greete
 greife, & told him all that was happened to their daughter,
 but hee (not so credulous as his wife) saide it was not
 possible she should be in that case, and not know who was
 the authour of it, & therefore would vnderstand the truth,
 for so said hee she may peraduenture purchase my fauour,
 where otherwise, she muste make account to dye without
 pity. His wife sought all he meane she might, to satisfy
 her husband with that which her daughter had sayd, but all

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her perswasions prevailed not, for running furiously with his naked sword in his hand to his daughter (who while her mother held him in talk,) brought forth her childe, and said unto her, Well we know the father of this childe, of which thou shalt presently die. His daughter breathing death, brake the poyson which shee made vnto Peter, and tolde him how it happened, Master Emery hearing it, brake his desperate through excessive anger, that hee could hardly withhold his handes from killing her.

But after hee had sayde that which tholde constrained him to speake, heeooke his horse, and rode to trappany, And hauing recounted all the misdeeds that Peter had done him, to one Mayster Conrade, that was a hieutenant for the King, in the same Towne, hee sodaynely caused Peter to be taken, before hee doubted it, and examining him of the matter, hee confessed all that was done. And being within a few dayes after condemned by the hieutenant, to be whipped through the Towne, and afterwards hanged.

Master Emery (to the ende to ridde the world at one instant of these two poore Louers, and their like infants) not hauing yet appealed his his wrath, by the death of Peter, which he had so procured, hee put poyson into a cuppe of wine, and deliuerd it to his seruant of his whom he most trusted and withall a naked Sworde, saying,

Go thy wayes with these two violenta and will her in my name to chuse out of these two deaths, either of poyson or of the Sworde, if not, I will cause her to be burnt, in the face of the world, as she hath well deserved, and when thou hast so done, take the brasse that she hath brought forth, and hauing dashed out his braines against the wall, cast him out to be deuoured of Dogges.

When hee hadde giuen this cruell Sentence against his Daughter, and his little Nephew, the Seruants

more

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more apt to doe ill then good, went to the place where Violenta remained.

Peter being condemned as you haue harde, was by twone & whipped toward the gallowes, & so passing forward (as it pleased the, y^e were the ministers of iustice) ouer against an Iune, where at the same time were lodged three greate personages of Armenia whome the King of that country had sent to Rome as Ambassadors to the Pope, about certaine necessary affayres, for a voyage that he had in hande, and being come thither to refresh and repose themselves for certaine dayes and greatly honoured of all the gentlemen of trappany, and especiall ye of Maister Emery.

These Embassadors bearing them to passe by, that ledde Peter, came to the windowe to see what was the matter.

Peter that was all naked from the girdle vpward, with his handes bound behind him, being dilligently marked by one of them, that was a man of good yeares, and greate authority, named Phince his blood began to rise through a certain natural motion that he felt within himselfe, which perceiving he remembred him of his onely sonne that about .xv. yeares before was taken from him by certaine Boners, on the sea coste of Iasa of whome since that tyme he neuer had hard tidinges, and considering the age of the poore unhappy wretch, whome they whipped, hee aduised him that if his sonne were liuing hee shoulde bee of the age that he seemed to be, wherefoze seeing his bosome, he began to suspecte that it was his sonne, and thinking that if it were he, he would yett haue some remembrance of his owne name and his Fathers, and of the Armenian song.

wherefoze when he was ouer against him, hee called him by the name of Theodore which Peter hearing, by and by lifte by his head, and then Phince speaking to him in the Armenian tongue, sayd.

Of whence and whose sonne art thou? The Sergeants that

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that led him, stayed in reuerence of the Ambassadors, so that Peter answered, I am of Arminia, the sonne of one named Phinee, and was brought hether by certaine people, I know not of what country.

Which Phinee hearing knewe certainly that it was his sonne whom he had lost, wherfoze weeping, he came down with his companions, and ran to embrace him, amongst all the Sergeantes, and hauing cast ouer his shoulders a ritche mantle that he bore about him, requested them that led him to let him lose, and stay the execution, till they heard further of the matter, whereunto they willingly accorded, and led him backe againe to the place from whence he came.

Now had Phinee by this time knowledge of the cause, for the which they led him in this sort to hanging, by the speche of the people, wherfoze he wente incontinently with his Companions and seruautes, to mayster Conrade, and said vnto him.

Sir, he whome you sende to be executed as a Slaue, is a free man, and my sonne, and is readye to take to hys wyfe, her whome they say he hath deflowred, may it therefore please you to remit the execution, till it be knowne whether she will haue him to her husband, to the end it be not found (if she be content) that you haue transgressed the Lawe.

Maister Conrade hearing that hee was the sonne of this Ambassadors, marvelled greatly, and imputing great fault to fortune, confessed that which Phinee had sayde, to bee moste true. So he returned incontinently to his house, and sent one with all speede, to seeke Maister Emery, and to tell him all that was happened, mayster Emery, that thought his Daughter and her yong sonne were alredye dead, was the heaviest man in the world, for that which he had done, knowing well that if she were not dead, all that was amis might now be amended, wherfoze he sent with all speede to the place where his Daughter remained, to

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the end that if they had not fulfilled his commaundment they should not do it at all, he that went thither, found the seruant that master Emery had sent thither, who hauing set the sword and popson befoz his Daughter, because she made no hast to take the one nor the other, vled manye threatnings against her, and would haue constrained her to take one of them.

But when he heard the commaundment of his master, he let her alone, and retourning vnto him, tolde him howe the case stood.

Master Emery very well contented with it, wente to the Ambassadour Phinee, and weeping, excused himselfe so well as he could for that which was happened, requiring pardon at his handes, and promising him that if Theodore would take her to his wife, he was right well content to bestowe her vpon him.

Phinee willingly excepted of his excuses, and answered.

It is my will and intente that my Sunne take youre Daughter: and if he will not, I am contente the sentence pronounced against him, be put in execution: Phinee and master Emery being agreeed, they went togither to seeke Theodore, at the place where he was, yet feareful of death, and ioyfull that hee had founde his father, who asked him what he was determined to doe in this matter.

Theodore hearing that Violenta should be his wyfe if he would, his ioy was so great, that he thought he leaped out of Hell into Paradise. And said, he would thinke himselfe right happy to haue it so.

They sent likewise to Violenta to knowe her intente, who hearing that which was hapned to Theodore, and what should come to passe, where befoze she was the heaviest Creature liuing, onely expecting death, after manye doubts, in the end giuing confidence to that whiche they tolde her, she receiued some comforte, and answered, that if she might obtaine her desyre in this behalfe, there coulde
not

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not happen a thing that would moze content her, then to be the wife of Theodore.

But notwithstanding, shee sayd shee would doe that which her father had commaunded her, if so it pleased him, when this matche was thus agreede vppon on all sides, mayster Emery made a sumptuous feast, to the greate consentment of the whole Cittie.

The yong wife comforting herself and causing her yong chyld to be nourished, became shortly after moze fleshy and saye then euer shee was. And when Phinee retourned againe from Rome, she vsed such reuerence towards him as appertained to her father, and he being very well content to haue so saye and honest a Daughter, hauing celebrated the Nuptials with great cheare and feasting, he receiued her for his Daughter, and euer after so accounted her, and within a fewe dayes after, he, his sonne, his saye

Daughter, and his little Nephew tooke shipping and

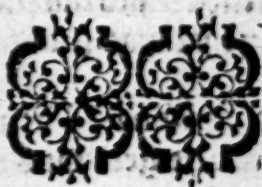
sayled to Laiasse where the two Louers resided,

mayned so long as they liued in

peace and quiet

rest.

Finis.



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One named Salard, departing from Genes, came to Montferat where he transgressed three commaundementes that his Father gaue him by his last will and Testamente, and being condemned to dye, was deliuered, and retourned againe into his owne countrey.



Righte happye and blessed is that chylde which with dutifull reuerence, betweth himselfe obedient to his Parentes, for in so doing, he fulfilleth the commaundement that God hath giuen him, and shall therefore liue long vpon the earth, hauing good successe in al his assayes, where contrariwise, the disobedient childe, is alwayes accompted miserable, and mosse unhappye, for commonly his enterprises haue an euill and wicked end, as you may easily perceiue by this fable following.

In Genes (which is a very auncient Cittie, and possibly as full of pleasaunt delights as any other) there was dwelling not long since a Gentleman named Renaulde Scaille, a man truely no lesse abundant in the gistes of fortune, then in the graces of the minde; moreouer (being so rich and learned as he was) he had a sonne named Salard, whome he loued most intyrelly. wherefore like a good and louing Father: he instructed and taught him, not suffering him to want any thing that was profitable or praise worthy for him.

Now it happened that Renauld being well stricken in yeares, fell into a great and greuous mallady, and perceiuing himself to be at the point of death, sent for a Scrivener to make his wil, whereby he constituted Salard for his heyre, praying him as a good father, to obserue thre commaundementes which he prescribed vnto him, without euer transgressing them.

The fyrst was, that for any loue that he bare to his wyfe
he

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he should neuer reueale his secretes vnto her.

The second was, that he should not nourish and bring vp as his childe, or take for his heyre one that was not of his owne issue.

The thyrde was, that he should neuer subiect himselfe to anye Lorde that gouerned his countrey after his owne minde.

This done, hauing blessed him, hee tourned his heade towards the Wall, and shortly after ycelded by the Shott.

Now Salard, that after his Fathers death, remayned sole inheritor of all his goods and possessions, perceiving himselfe to be yong, rich, and of a good progenie (whereas he should haue wholly applied himselfe to consyder of his fathers commaundementes, and the waighy affayres which were salne vnto him by the newe possession of his patrimony) he determined to take a wyfe, and suche a one, and of such a famely as should well content him. So well he applied his businesse, & followed the matter so effectually, that ere one whole yeare was fully expired after his fathers decease, hee matched himselfe with one Theodore, Daughter to one master Odescale Doria, a Gentleman of Genes, and one of the chiefe in all the cittie.

This Gentlewoman being faire, and very well favoured, though she were somewhat shrewish, was so well belovied of her husband, as neither by day nor night he could well abide to be out of her company. when they had continued a while together, withoute having any issue at all betweene them, Salard with his wifes consent, was minded to chole some one for his childe Adoptive, contrary to the will and commaundement of his father, purposing to bring it vp as his own, and according to that his determination, presently putting the matter in execution, he chole for his chylde adoptive, a yong gyrl named postume that was Daughter to a poore widdowe, dwelling in the same Cittie, whome they brought vp, somewhat more
wan.

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wantonly then well besetmed.

Shortly after, Salard determined to depart from Genes, & to inhabite in some other soyle, not because he had anye disliking of the place (for there was no reason he shoulde; hating there no want of any thing that was meete for his degree, or agreeable with his mind) but was moued thereunto by a desyre of change, which is commonly incident to all those that be at their owne libertye, and not subiecte to any superiour. wherefore hauing gotten a good purse of Money, with Jewels and other great riches, being also well furnished with Horse and Armour, he departed from Genes with his wife Theodore, and his adopted Daughter Postume, and passing towardes Piemont, at the last he arriued at Montferat where hee was honourably receined of the inhabitants, and there in shorthe time growing in acquaintance with diuerse, hee often times rid on hunting with the townes men and cittizens, vsing with them diuerse other exercises, wherein he tooke delight. So that his magnificence being well knowne throughout the whole Citie, he was not onely beloued of the common sorte, but also greatly esteemed and honoured amongst the cheefest, which comming to the eares of the Marques, that gouerned those partes, he desyred to be acquainted with him, and perceiuing that hee was yong, rich, noblye borne, wise and apt to all thinges, hee began to beare so great affection towardes him, as hee could not suffer him one whole day together to bee out of his company.

To be shorthe, so great was the loue of the Marques towardes Salard as he would neuer vouchsafe his fauour to any mā, vntill his sute were first preferred by him. wherefore Salard, seeing himselfe in so greate credite with him, sought all meanes possible to please him, in doing that which might be most to his liking.

The Marques that was but yong, tookt great pleasure in Dawling and to hunte wilde Beastes, for which cause
as

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as it appertained to the degree of so greate a Lorde, hee kept continuallge great store of Hawkes and Houndes, and would neuer goe abroade but he would haue Salarde with him.

It happened one day aboue the rest, that Salard being alone in his chamber, began to thinke of the great honour that the Marques had done vnto him. Then he began to consider the good graces, honest behauiour and good manners of his adobtiue daughter Postume, and how obedient she was to him and his wyfe at al assayes, and in this soze discoursing with himselfe he sayde.

Was not my Father greatly deceiued? surely I helcne he doted, as commonly all old men doe. I know not whether it were through follye or madnesse that hee did with such instance expresse commaunde mee not to bring vp a chylde that was not of myne owne issue, nor to subiect my selfe to the will of a Lorde that gouerneth his Subjects after his owne fancy.

Nowe doe I plainly perceiue that all his commaundementes were vtterlye voyde of truth: For Postume that is my adopted Daughter, and not of myne owne issue, is so good a chylde, so witty, gentle, well bozne, and obedient, as may be required.

Besides that, is it possible that I shoulde anye where be better beloued then I am of the Marques: It is certain that in these parts he hath no superioure, neither is there any his equall, and yet the loue he beareth me, and the honour that daply he doth vnto me, is so great, that it is commonly saide I am his gouernour, whereat I haue greates meruaile.

There are manye doting olde men, who hauing vtterly forgotten what they themselues were in their youth, would prescribe newe Lawes and ordinaunces to their Children, and all in vaine doe trouble their heads to bring them to that which they themselues neuer obserued.

wherevnto

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wherunto they are not moued, for any loue that they beare vnto them, but onely to trouble them long time with the obseruation of such thinges as are to no purpose. But seeing in two of those pointes whiche my Father prescribed vnto me (contrary to my expectation) I haue had so good successe, I minde eare long to make tryall of the thyrde, though it be nothing needefull, for I am well assured that my sweete wife, and friendly companion, will soone confirme the same by her harty good will, and loyalty towards me.

Then shall shee, whome I more esteeme then the Apple of my eye, geue the world plainly to vnderstande, with what great folly these olde men bee commonly infected, that adde to their will such ridiculous conditions. Nowe may I well suppose that my father when he made his will was deprived of his right sence, and that as a witlesse old man, and one void of al good iudgement, he did the dedes of a childe.

In whome may I better haue confidence, then in myne owne wife, that hath forsaken her Father, her mother, her bretheren, her Sisters, and her owne family, to bee made one only soules one onely hart with me, so y I may safely reueale my secretes vnto her of what importaunce soeuer they be: I will then make prooue of her loyalty, not for that I doe any thing misdoubt her, (being wel assured that she loueth me more then her selfe) but to followe therein the custome of other yong men that doe fondly suppose it to be a very foule offence, to breake the lewde and beastly ordinances of their parentes, which doe continually run into some foolish franisie, as men that are beside themselves.

Thus Salard with himselfe deriding his fathers wise and profitable precepts, purposed to breake the thyrde, and thereupon, departing from his owne house, went straight to the Marques Pallace, and going to the place where his Hawkes were kept, he tooke the best of them, and that which the Marques made most account of, from the perch, where

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where it stode, and secretly conuayde it to the house of a deare friend of his named maister Frauncis, and presented the same vnto him, praying him of all lones to keepe it, vntil such time as he did further vnderstand his mind. and then retourning home againe, he secretlye slue one of his owne Hawkes, and carried it to his wife saying vnto her in this manner. My welbeloued Theodore I cannot as you may well perceiue, haue one bower of rest for the Marques. For be he a hunting hawking, exercising feats of armes, or vsing any other exploit, he always kepeth me occupied with one thing or other, in so much as I am often in the case that I know not wel whither I be deade or alme, wherfore to preuent our dayly exercise in hawking, I haue played him such a prank, as when hee knoweth of it, will not very well content him, and peradventure it may be a meane to make him keepe at home for a while, & so shall we take our ease together. When sayd his wyfe, what haue you done vnto him? he answered, I haue slaine the best and most beloued hawke that he had, and I beleeue when he misseth it, and can heare no tidinges of it, he will die for anger and despight, and therewith pulling out the dead hawke from vnder his cloke, he deliuered it vnto his wife, charging her to cause it to be dressed, saying: that hee would feede vpon it for the Marques sake. Theodore hearing her husbands words, and seeing the dead hawke, made great mone, and turning towards him, began to reprove him for the offence he had committed. I marnaile (qd. shee) how you could finde in your hart to commit such a trespass against my Lord Marques that beareth you so great good will, he hath alwayes bene ready to pleasure you in any thing you would requyre of him, appointing you alwaies the place next to his owne person: Alas husband you haue hereby wrought our vnter ruine. If by il hap the Marques haue the least inkeling in the worlde that you haue done this euill deede, what shall become of you, surely you shall be in great danger of death where vnto Salard replied, how

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great pleasure in the same, haue peelded my self vnto their discretion, my father lyke wise knowing the nature of Princes to be such, that in one hower they will both loue and lothe, exhalt and pull downe, counsayled mee to seperate my selfe from them, and I (foole that I am) to be depriued of my goods, honour, and life, haue moste vnrwisely sought after them. O Salard, Salard, how much better had it bene for thee, if thou hadst followed thy fathers steppes, suffering flatterers and lewde persons to follow the courts of princes and great Lordes. Now see I wel to what passe I am like to come, by trusting to much to my selfe, my wicked wife, vnracious chylde, and aboue all by to much beleeuing the fained friendship of the vnrateful Marques. Now do I certainly know how well hee loued me, what might he doe worse vnto me? surely nothing, for at one instant would he take from me my lining, lyfe, and honour, alas how soone is his great loue conuerted to cruell and bloody hatred. I see this p[ro]uerbe is not v[er]y in vaine, that these great Lordes are like vnto wine in a Bottle, which is good in the morning, & nought at night. O vnhappy Salard, to what passe art thou come? where is thy nobilitie? where are thy deare parents? where is thy great riches? where is thy loyaltie? thy good inclination, and accustomed curtesie, O my louing father, I am sure if you were aliue againe to beholde me in this place, ready to suffer death, For none other offence but onely for infringing your fatherly precepts (through the deede) deserue far greater punishment then this that is now allotted vnto me, you would not only seeke & sue to saue me from it, but would also hartly pray to God to haue pittie vpon my yowthful follies, & the offences wher vnto only ignorance hath led me, and I for my part, as an vnthankfull and disobedient chylde, that haue not regarded your graue and gracious commaundements, would moste humbly beseech you to pardon me. whilst Salard was thus debating and complayning to himselfe, his daughter Postume (like a good and wel instructed hangman) repay-

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red to the prison where he was, and there most arrogantly presenting her selfe before him, she vsed these or such lyke wordes.

Father for as much as froward fortune hath ordayned that according to the sentence which my Lord Maques hath pronounced against you, you shall this day withoute faile suffer death, and that the third part of your goods is allotted vnto them that shall doe the execution vpon you, knowing the loue that you beare vnto me, I hope you wil not be offended, if I take vpon me to discharge that office my selfe, for in so doing your goods shall not fall into the handes of straungers, but remaine still to those of your own family, wherewith me thinketh you should be well contented. Salard y^e gaue attentive eare to his daughters wordes answered in this manner, God blesse thee my daughter, thy reasons are very good, and please me right well, and though before I were vnwilling to dy, now would I gladly end my life, doe then thy office my daughter, and deferre the time no longer, Then Postume craning pardon & kissing him, toke the halter and put it about his neck, exhorting him to take his death patiently, Salard seing y^e sodain alteration of thinges, was greatly astonished, and issuing out of the prison, with his hands bound behind him, & the halter about his neck, accompanied with the bayle, & al the rest of the officers, & ministers of iustice, he passed with all speede to the place of execution, & being come thither turning his back towards the ladder that was set against the Gibbet, hee wente leperslye from steppe to steppe till hee came to the toppe, where with a stout courage and stable countenance, he behelde the people on euery syde, declaring treatable and with greafe deliberation, why he was brought thither and then in louing and friendly manner, craning pardon for al his fautes and offences committed, earnestlye exhorted Chyldren to bee obedient their Parents and Elders. when the people had whole cause of Salards condemnation, there v

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in the compaigne but wepte, and greatlye lamented the hard hap of this poye yong man, and desyred GOD to giue them the grace to take example by him.

Whylste these thinges were a doing, his friende Frauncis (that was not vnmindefull of him,) rooke his way to the Marques Pallace, and hauing founde fit opportunity, in moste humble wise besought him that Salard mighte be broughte to his presence, to aunswere for himselfe, before he were put to death, assuring him that he was not guilty of the crime for which hee had condemned him, and therevppon pleadged his lyfe: So that at the last with much adoe, the Marques caused Salard to be repriued, & willed he should be broughte vnto him with the halter about his neck, and the hangman with him, which was performed accordingly.

So soone as Salard was come into the Marques presence, whose face was yet inflamed with furie, he beganne with a bold courage, and stedfast countenance (not being any thing troubled in his mind,) to vtter these & suche lyke wordes.

Syr, the seruice that I haue done you, and the loue that I haue borne vnto you, hath not deserued the outrage and shame that you haue done vnto me, in condemning mee to dye so shameful & villanous a death. And although the displeasure that you haue taken against my great follye, (if it may be termed folly) hath prouoked you to vse such cruelty towards me, contrary to your naturall disposition, yet shoulde you not so sodainly condemne me to death without bearing me aunswere in my owne behalfe, for the whiche, for the which you are so much offended, (thinking that it is dead) is yet liuing, and in as good case as euer it was.

And thinke not Syr, that I woulde presume to kill or hurt by any meanes, but this that I haue done, was to repall of certaine thinges that I was before warned would manifest vnto you.

And

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And therewithall, calling vnto him his friend Fraunces, that was there presente, hee prayed him to fetch the hawke and restore it again to the Owner. And then reueled to the Lorde Marques from the beginning to the end the good commaundements that his father had giuen him and his disobedience to the same.

The Marques hauing hearde Salards whole discourse, so effectually vttered, and seeing his Hawke as fatte and in as good liking as euer it was, he became mute.

But after he had a little recovered himselfe hee began to consider what offence he hadde committed in condemning to death his innocent friende, so vnauisedlye, and then beholding Salard, he shed greate abundaunce of teares, and sayd.

Salarde, if thou couldest at this present penetrate with thy eyes to the interieur parts of my pooze hart, thou shouldest certainly see that neither the halter whiche hath hitherto bene about thy neck, nor the bandes wherein thou haste bene long time bounde, was not so shamefull or painful vnto thee, as it is now greuous vnto me, to think of the great wrong and injury & I haue offered thee, so that I thinke I shall neuer more, during the tearme of my life obtaine one day of ioy & contentment, seeing I haue ben so vnthankful for the great love and loyaltie that I haue alwayes found in thee: and if it were possible to reuoke that which is already past, I woulde no doubt most willingly do it, but for as much as that is impossible, I wil henceforth inforce my selfe in all I maye, in such sorte to amende that which is amis, as you may be sufficiently satisfied.

This done, the Marques with his own hands pulled the halter from his neck, and vnloosed his bands, and then willing that the halter should be put about the neck, of Postume for her wicked & abhominable fact, would haue had her to be hanged in his steade. But Salard not willing to haue it so, caused her to come before him, vnto whome hee sayde. Daughter Postume, thou that for Gods sake haste hither-

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to ben brought vp and nourished by me, I know not how to dispose of thee, God knoweth best. for on y one side the lorie that I haue bozne vnto thee til this time, moueth me, and on the other side, the dispiht I beare to thy wicked & vnnmerciful meaning prouoketh me, the one would that as a good father I should pardon thee, the other begeth me to erecte vengeance vpon thee, what shoulde I then doe in this so doubtful case, if I pardō thee, y people wil laugh me to scorn, & if I take vengeance on thy offence, I shal transgresse Gods commaundement. But to the end I may neither appere to pittiful, nor to spightful, I wil chuse y mean betwene both, I wil not punish thee corporally & yet thou shalt not be vtterly pardoned, take then this halter which not long since thou didst put about my neck, & in steede of y goods that thou gapest for after my death, beare it aboute thee, to put thee alwayes in minde of the villany that thou hast done to me, and settle thy selfe so farre from mee, as I may neuer more here ridings of thee. In the meane time theodore hearing what was happened to her husband Salard, forsooke her house, and entred into a monestarye of Nunnes, where shortly after she miserably ended her life. When Salard being aduertised of her death, tooke leaue of the Marques and departed from Montferat retourning againe to Genes, and there he liued long after in great rest and quietnesse, and gaue the greatest part of his goods for Gods sake retaining only so much as was sufficiente for his mayntenance. 2 AP 56

L'acquis Abonde.

Finis. H.C.



